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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

OCTOBER 28th, 1976, ISSUE No. 41

Surfside: Montauk Light

A Sextant is not a Deviation

TOMCOD

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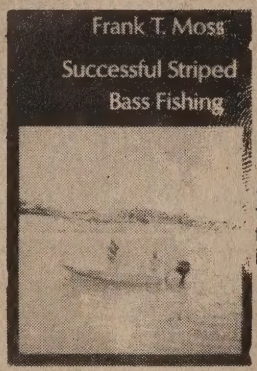

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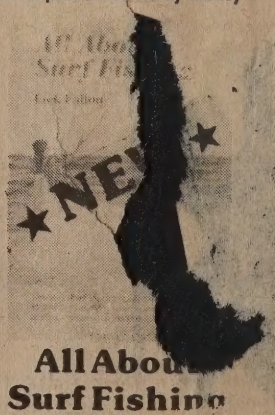

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The Long Island Fisherman
P.O. Box 143, Dept. B
Deer Park, New York 11729

The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

VOL. 11, No. 41 — OCTOBER 28th, 1976

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Captain Ted Monell stands next to the 16 foot 7 inch Great White Shark he harpooned at Montauk in 1974. See story on page 18.

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The LONG ISLAND FISHERMAN is published weekly, except for two (2) weeks in January, by the L.I.F. Publishing Corp., L.I.F. Building, 8 West 7th St., P.O. Box 143, Deer Park, N.Y. 11729. Telephone 516-667-6633. Second class postage is paid at Deer Park. 35 cents a copy; 1 year, 50 issues, $9.00; 2 years, 100 issues, $17.00; 3 years, 150 issues, $25.00. Back issues are sold for 50 cents a copy. Photographs and written contributions are welcomed. Unsolicited contributions must be accompanied by a written request and a stamped, self-addressed envelope. All consideration will be given these requests, however, no responsibility on our part is assumed. Notice of change of address must include both old and new address. Allow two weeks for change.

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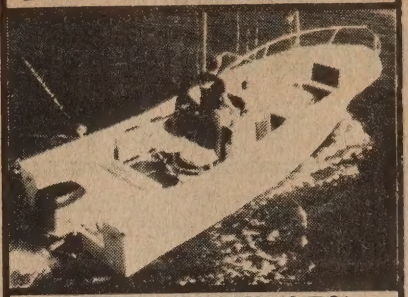

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Sinker Bouncing with Matt Ahern

Portrait Of A Cod

Every fisherman I know is intrigued by the cod—and well they might be.

The largest cod on record weighed 211¼ pounds and measured over six feet in length—which, as any sinker bouncer will agree, is some codfish! But the amazing thing is that when this monster was first hatched from an egg 1/25 of an inch in diamter, it was a mere 1/8 inch in length. How such a fish survived in the rigors of the sea in order to attain such an enormous size is a tribute to the cod's inherent ruggedness.

This great cod was captured in 1885 by commercial dory fishermen off the coast of northern Massachusetts. Although the chances of another like it are slim, indeed, hope forever springs eternal in the breast of every dedicated codfisherman and one never knows when this long standing record may be broken. Cod more than 75 pounds are rare, though occasionally one is reported over this weight.

Fifty and sixty pounders are not uncommon, and many cod this size are caught each year by both commercial and sportfishermen. For the sportsman, however, the average is about eight to ten pounds. But this means nothing to the dedicated codfisherman. He knows his next cod may easily tip the scales somewhere in the thirty and forty pound range.

Our friend, the Atlantic cod (Gadus callarias) is the roamer of the sea and its range is extensive. It is found on both sides of the North Atlantic Ocean, in water anywhere from six to 1500 feet, depending on the area fished and time of year. Large catches are often made from the northern reaches of the Barents Sea, all around the coasts of Iceland, the southern coast of Greenland, thence along the coastlines of Canada and the United States to as far south as North Carolina.

West and south of Montauk, cod are available only during winter. From Montauk north, they support a large commercial and sport fishery twelve months a year.

The cod's color is variable, depending on the bottom it inhabits. Most have some shade of green, but they can also be gray, gray-black, black, red-brown, or bright red. The latter can be very beautiful, indeed. Sides and back are sprinkled with green, brown, or reddish irregular spots, usually of one color on any one fish. These spots sometimes extend to dorsal fins. The lateral line, the long slender line running the length of the fish along the side, is always of a pale hue, as is the stomach. Fins are usually the same color as the fish.

Cod have a tapered, stream-lined shape, with a heavy, broad, nearly square tail. A small chin barbel, which is always equal to the diameter of the eye, is one of the outstanding characteristics of this fish. It has a large, heavy head and is possessed with a gaping mouth, containing small, pointed teeth that lie in bands. The teeth of the outer row of the upper jaw and the inner row of the lower jaw are somewhat enlarged. Its upper jaw and snout projects slightly. The dorsal fins are always three in numbers; the anal fins, two. These are soft-rayed, containing no spines. Scales are small and round.

A cod grows rapidly only during its early life, reaching approximately two feet in length when three years of age, at which times it spawns for the first time. It may be noted that European cod grow much slower than those in the western Atlantic, averaging but a foot at the end of three years. Cod in the Bay of Fundy are in between, reaching about twenty inches at three years.

But luckily for local fishermen, the fast-growers are the ones that arrive each winter along the south shore of Long Island and down throughout New Jersey and the surrounding area. These cod are known to migrate from the Nantucket Shoals off Massachusetts. This, plus their faster rate of growth is thought to be due to the available food supply, but this is not certain. It is also known that these Nantucket cod are the only ones that do migrate. Those cod on the far offshore grounds such as the Grand Banks off Newfoundland, and the Georges Bank off Massachusetts, maintain a year round residency.

When life begins for the cod, it is but a mere speck on the surface of the vast North Atlantic. Depending on size, each female spawns anywhere from three to ten million eggs at one time. (Some fishery scientists believe it is even higher!) When fishermen consider the millions of parent fish, the total amount of eggs spawned each winter is astronomical—in fact, it is beyond reasoning power. Unquestionably, most perish either due to adverse weather conditions, or serve as food for other fish.

For successful spawning, a temperature of 47 degrees is necessary. This must be consistent for ten to eleven days. Higher temperatures shorten the period and lower ones lengthen it. No doubt this is the critical period, for if hatched too far above or below the needed 47 degree, the fry become weak and unable to cope with the rugged requirements of the open sea. This is probably the reason commercial catches fluctuate so drastically from year to year.

For instance, in 1880, American commercial fishermen landed 294 million pounds for a record catch, and it has been known to fall to less than forty million in succeeding years. Undoubtedly, the introduction of the efficient otter trawl has helped decimate the cod supply. And bear in mind that our "friendly" foreign fishing fleet raping our piece of the sea has made serious inroads in the American fisherman's catch.

In order for the cod to maintain that large body, it must have an enormous appetite. And it certainly does. Forage foods consist of rock crabs, sea clams, large sea worms which are seldom seen in their natural state, lobsters, small fish of all kinds, sand eels, squid and young herring. (The latter is a good tip for the sportfisherman as this is what the old time commercial set liner always used for bait.) Plus anything else that will fit into its gaping mouth. Cod are ferocious and will attack anything—whether it is edible or not.

Some of the foreign objects discovered in the stomachs of cod are weird, indeed. These include pieces of metal, wood, rope, rubber, bits and pieces of clothing, small toys, jewelry, empty cigarette packs, flat tobacco tins, broken light bulbs, and last but not least, a set of false teeth (?) have all been found. Fishermen who have been codfishing for any length of time can add to this list without difficulty.

Some years ago, I caught a cod that had devoured a large rubber heel from a man's work boot, and another that had the setting of a lady's engagement ring, minus the stone. Many beautiful sea shells would be unknown if it weren't for the cod's fondness for exotic fare. Indeed, years ago it was common to see collectors of sea shells pouring through cod stomachs at commerical fishing ports.

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EDITORIAL

THE 200 MILE LIMIT

It will be our game plan to keep our readers informed about progress on the implementation of the 200-mile jurisdictional fishing limit.

It seems after some recent developments, that squabbles between friendly cooperative nations may rank as high in importance as disagreements between cold-war nations.

Even before news releases from the eight regional fisheries management councils have begun to appear, clashes over the 200-mile limit have hit the headlines.

Perhaps we have forgotten that the main reasons for passing the 200-mile law were to prevent overharvesting by the Russians and East European nations on the continental shelf and to afford this nation the opportunity to develop a meaningful fisheries management program. Western nations, it was thought, neither had the equipment nor the desire to rape the shelf of its seafood resource.

Still, we were misled. An item that hit the papers around Columbus Day described a fight over the fishing rights to Georges Bank between the United States and Canada. Each country has passed 200 mile jurisdictional fishing limits which would exclude other nations. Meetings between officials from the two nations have been ongoing for several months now and a spokesman for the U.S. State Department, David Colson, has stated that no major progress has taken place.

The dispute results from the indented shape of the North American coastline between Cape Cod and Nova Scotia.

Canada wants to draw a line mid-way between Cape Cod and Nova Scotia. This would effectively divide the fish-rich Georges Bank area equally between the two nations. The United States, on the other hand, takes the position that the line should run closer to Nova Scotia because the U.S. has a longer coastline and therefore is entitled to greater jurisdiction.

We marvel at the wisdom of such logic even though we are setting ourselves up against our own Department of States. Still, it seems to us to be rather absurd that 5 rounds of meetings between cooperating nations should fail to come up with a compromise agreement.

In fact, much wisdom is being lost in this debate. The United States and Canada have committed themselves to the principle of management as it pertains to the maintenance of viable continental shelf fisheries. The principle attractions on Georges Bank are cod, haddock, flounder, and sea scallops. The cod and haddock especially, have been hard hit by the ravaging Russian fleets of factory ships for the last decade.

Why then isn't it possible to agree that the overlapping area can become a shared fishing ground and that furthermore the scientific and political responsibilities of management can also be shared. With proper surveillance it seems unlikely that either country as well as the Soviet block nations will be able to infiltrate the area improperly and tip the balance of a well managed fishery.

We can hardly expect that the implementation of the 200-mile law will flow smoothly if friendly nations come to blows before the bell for round one has been sounded.

The position of the U.S. Department of State is without a mature logical base. From what has appeared in print, the Canadians seem to be receptive to something along the lines of a compromise, if only the U.S. were not so rigid.

If management of the seas in future decades will be successful we will have to maintain a proper spirit of cooperation and good will between friendly bordering nations and between nations with similar philosophies in this hemisphere.

While we are at it, we have not read, heard of, or seen any news releases or communiques from government officials or members of the eight regional fisheries management councils. The first meetings and the first decisions seem long overdo. The salt water fishermen of this nation are waiting "somewhat" patiently.

William A. Miller

NEW BOOKLET MAKES IT EASY TO BUILD AND REPAIR FINE RODS

As the "Build your own rod boom" continues, Featherweight Products announces the publication of a new, low cost booklet which tells and illustrates how professionals build and repair casting, spinning and fly rods. The booklet discusses various types of rod actions and advises the reader in the selection of the blanks best suited to his needs. The various types of guides are illustrated and compared, and proper guide spacing and wrapping is carefully explained. Other subjects covered include the building of cork and Hypalon handles, how to mount butt and center ferrules, the properties and use of various adhesives, and the proper application of finishes.

Copies may be obtained at leading sporting goods and tackle stores, or by sending $2.00 to Featherweight Products 3456 Ocean View Blvd, Glendale, Calif. 91208.

CAPTAIN'S COOKBOOK

Thousands of cookbooks have been published over the years, but never one like THE CAPTAIN'S COOKBOOK ($9.95) by Walter Kaprielian, coming from Holt, Rinehart and Winston on September 20th, 1976.

The Captain's Cookbook includes more than a hundred fish and shellfish recipes contributed by over 80 charter boat captains and has, in addition, many pages of general pointers on the preparation and lore of seafood. Every page from front matter to index, has been done by hand in Kaprielian's deft line drawings and calligraphy. Each recipe is organized step-by-step from cleaning the fish, to required utensils, ingredients and serving ideas.

A charter boat captain in his spare time, Kaprielian asked captains from every fishing coast in the country to contribute their most successful recipes for fish and shellfish dishes. The one hundred recipes in The Captain's Cookbook came from the East Coast, Hawaiik Jamaica, Gulf of Mexico, the Bahamas, Virgin Islands, and the West Coast. Seafront photos and brief biographies of all the captains who contributed to the book are included opposite their recipes and Kaprielian offers eight of his own simple and delicious dishes also.

Walter Kaprielian is senior Vice-President and art director for the advertising agency of Ketchum, MacLeod and and Grove in New York. During the fishing season he operates the "Blue Beard" a 35 foot sportsfisherman, for charter boat clients out of Montauk, Long Island. For years he has pleased his charter boat clients with one page illustrated recipes showing them what to do with their catch.

CONSERVATION COMMENTS *by Al Ristori*

Election time is coming up and it's appropriate now that we take a moment to consider just where the candidates stand on issues of importance to sportsmen and conservationists. There were many issues of an environmental nature before Congress during this season, but none was of greater interest to marine anglers than the 200 mile limit legislation.

By and large, we received excellent support from legislators in the Fisherman's circulation area. All Long Island congressmen voted for HR 200 and there was no opposition in any of the New England states, though St. Germain of Rhode Island was absent (but paired in favor) and the two Connecticut congressmen, Cotter and Giaimo, were absent and not paired. Pairing is the method by which congressmen record their preferences on legislation when they're going to be absent. They find another representative, who'll also be absent and is on the other side of the issue, to pair off against so their absence won't have any effect on the success or failure of the legislation.

Unfortunately, the situation wasn't nearly as good in the New York City delegation. Despite the great importance of this bill to millions of New Yorkers, five city congressmen showed their contempt for their constituents by attempting to scuttle the 200 mile limit. The anti-conservationists in the city delegation are Scheuer, Holtzman, Rangel, Badillo and Bingham. Bronx congressman Bingham was one of the leaders in the fight to defeat the 200 mile limit and continued his opposition even after the House-Senate conference reported out a bill acceptable to just about everyone. All of the negative voices in the city contingent come from districts that are virtual "walkovers". The great majority of the voters cast their ballots for anyone on the Democratic line and, as a result, get just what they deserve, politicians who don't give a damn!

Neither party has a monopoly on congressmen who aren't concerned about the marine environment. If it was up to Republican-Liberal Senator Javits, the sea around us would, indeed be a virtual desert. Rockland County Republican Benjamin Gilman voted against the bill, as did New Jersey Rebublican Millicent Fenwick. She was joined in opposition by Democrat Helen Meyner. All other New Jersey congressmen voted for the 200 mile limit, except Daniels (absent, but paired in favor) and Thompson and Helstoski—both of whom were absent, but had been listed as 200 mile supporters in the past.

HR 200 received strong support in Pennsylvania. Only two congressmen from the eastern portion of the state voted "nay"—Biester (R) and Nix (D). Delaware's only representative, Pierre DuPont, voted in favor. He's running for governor this year and is carrying with him a strong environmental record.

In the Senate, all of the incumbent senators running for re-election supported the legislation. They are Lowell Weicker (R-Conn); James Buckley (R-C-N.Y.); Harrison Williams (D-N.J.); and William Roth (R-Del.). A 200 mile supporter, John Pastore, is retiring in Rhode Island. Ex-Governor, John Chaffee, seeking to succeed him, is using commercials showing fishermen and declaring his support of the 200 mile limit. In the race to succeed Hugh Scott in Pennsylvania, Green (D) was absent, but paired in favor of HR 200, while his opponent, Heinz (R) was absent and not paired either way.

In the New York Senate Race, voters have the opportunity to return Senator Buckley, a strong environmentalist. Most importantly, Buckley is a member of the Commerce Committee, the committee which handles legislation relative to the marine fisheries in the Senate. This is a key committee assignment for marine anglers.

A very positive word must also be said for the House members who occupy key positions on the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee. The real work in getting legislation prepared and ready for passage is done in committee, and most specifically in the subcommittees. A congressman may be a great advocate of certain legislation, but unless he's on the subcommittee handling the bill, his influence will probably consist of little more then his one vote out of 435.

Congressman Edwin Forsythe (R-N.J.) is the ranking Republican on the subcommittee on fisheries and probably the best friend the marine angler has in Congress. His re-election is a real "must" for marine conservation. Congressman Norman Lent (R-N.Y.) and Matt Rinaldo (R-N.J.) are also members of the key subcommittees on fisheries, Both switched to that committee after receiving heavy mail from their constituents relative to the 200 mile limit and are solid supporters of marine conservation. Lent was the original sponsor of the Emergency Committee's 200 mile legislation. Congressman Mario Biaggi (D-N.Y.) is chairman of the subcommittee on the Coast Guard, another important component in the 200 mile picture. Congressman John Murphy (D-NY) and Leo Zeferetti (D-NY) are also members of the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee.

Though not committee members, several other congressmen were active in support of HR 200. These include Pike, Ottinger, and Solarz of New York, and Hughes, Howard, Roe, Minish and Patten of New Jersey. In every case, we haven't commented on the opponents of these congressmen. In many cases they may be just as committed to conservation, or even more so. That's something you should determine before going into the voting booth. The only congressman that I have endorsed without qualification (Forsythe, Lent, Rinaldo, Biaggi, and Senator Buckley) serve on key committees. We'll give up important seniority should they lose—even to another conservationist. In some districts, the incumbent isn't running and special care should be taken in considering the environmental qualifications of the contestants. Westchester residents have a fine candidate to consider in the person of Assemblyman Bruce Caputo, who was honored by the Yonkers branch of the Hudson River Fisherman's Association, on October 17th for being the first legislator to point out the dangers of PCB's.

While in many cases, it's easy to make a decision in the congressional races, the national contest is a toss-up. President Ford has both pluses and minuses on his environmental record, but, to his everlasting credit, he did ignore Secretary of State Kissinger's advice and sign the 200 mile limit law. Jimmy Carter had a good environmental record as governor of Georgia and has indicated support of the 200 mile limit. However, he still remains something of an unknown quantity and is regarded very suspiciously by hunters, as he is surrounded by extremists in the anti-gun cause. On the other hand, the President has taken a strong stand in favor of the right to own guns and for mandatory sentences for the use of guns in crime.

(Continued on page 45.)

ASK THE CAPTAIN

OPINIONS & ANSWERS

by Capt. Ronnie Lepper

Question: "Chip" Guardia, Ozone Pk.
I would like to try offshore wreck fishing for fluke, blackfish and eventually cod. I have a 19 foot center console fishing boat and do most of my fishing in the vicinity of the bay side of Jones Inlet. In reading articles such as Matt Ahern's "Wreck Fishing for Fluke," L.I.F. 9/9/76, Issue #34, he mentions "Stone Barge, Coal Wreck, C.O.D. Wreck, Steel Wreck, Joe Wreck, and the Iberia Wreck. In the nautical charts I've studied, they do not refer to the wrecks by name. How can I locate which ones are which?

Wreck fishing is an art in itself, one which few ever master. Finding a wreck is one thing, knowing how and when to fish it is another. Most of the inshore wrecks you speak of are found with the use of loran or shore ranges. A lot of wrecks useful to you are listed on the #1215 U.S. Coast and Geodetic survey chart. Regrettably they are listed as "wreck" with no name attached. Seeing as wreck fishing is not my specialty I called Matt Ahern for his assistance in answering your question. The information he gave me is excellent and will surely serve your purpose. All of the following runs are based on a 10 mph boat leaving from the Jones Inlet bell buoy.

Stone Wreck	*145°*	*3 ½ miles*
Steel wreck	*203°*	*10 ½ miles*
Joe wreck	*202°*	*5 miles*
C.O.D. wreck	*196°*	*8¾ miles*
Coal wreck	*195°*	*5 ½ miles*
McAllister	*260°*	*5 miles*
Kindergarten	*176°*	*3 ½ miles*
Cholera Banks	*185°*	*11 miles*

To fully utilize this information assuming you do not have loran, make sure your compass is compensated correctly and know your exact boat speed at your cruising RPM. Make a run between two known points (buoys) and clock your speed.

Question: Sheldon Mass, Rego Park
What is the best lure and color to use when striped bass trolling in the fall? The fish in my area seem to feed on sand eels more then anything else.

There is no best lure or color. Your main intent should be to simulate the bait that the fish are feeding on. With sand eels I find umbrella rigs to produce the best especially in the dark blue black and maroon colors. Single 15 to 16 inch tubes also work well in the same colors, but only on the larger fish. Umbrella rigs will still take the lions share of the school fish. If the fish are feeding on bunkers stay with the big white bunker spoons for day light fishing and big trolling plugs for daybreak, dusk and nightime fishing. Live bait will also produce well if you can pin point the fish. If not stick with trolling.

Question: Philip Danzing, Keyport NJ
A few weeks ago we were trolling unsuccessfully near Monmouth Beach N.J. for blue fish. The fishing was really bad as we had no action at all. Over the CB radio I kept hearing boats talking about the good fishing they were having at the lump buoy. Some of the boats were N.J. charter boats and they sounded very close. We called for some information on the radio but no one was willing to answer us. We trolled a few miles north of Monmouth and then went back to the south without finding anyone. We never did find the fleet or catch any fish. When I returned home I bought a chart of that whole area and could not find anything marked lump buoy. I also asked a few of the shark fishermen at my boat yard and received ten different answers. Can you tell me where the lump buoy is?

Most of the known hotspots have nicknames and are not listed as such on the coast and geodetic charts. Had you traveled a few miles further north and a little more offshore you would have run into the fleet. The lump buoy is a high spot located between Ambrose Channel and the Sandy Hook channel. A good shore range is approximately ½ mile north of the old coast guard station at Sandy Hook. The lump is about 2 miles offshore just east of the Sandy Hook channel markers (red side). The bottom drops off very sharply going south and creates quite a tide rip in any moving tide. This area also produces very well during the late fall (late Nov.) bass fishing.

Question: Sidney Berman, E. Rockaway
We were fishing in front of East Rockaway inlet this past week for bluefish. The fish that we caught were all big 12 to 17 pounds. Out of 25 or 30 fish on, we only landed 6 and that's pretty bad odds. We were using big bunker spoons on 300 feet of wire line as it was the only combination that produced any hits at all. We tried umbrella rigs and single tubes with no luck. We were fishing in 55 feet of water and received no action unless we let out all of the wire. Can you tell me why we lost so many fish or was it the normal percentage of loss when using big spoons?

I can sympathize with your problem as I have had enough of those days myself. The loss and land factor using bunker spoons is usually about 50 percent which is still better than no hits at all. Regrettably, when fish want those big spoons they rarely hit anything else. I think your problem is a combination of three factors, one is the length of wire. When using 300 feet of wire you greatly multiply your chances of fish loss especially with those big (fight to the end blufish) due to the length of time reeling in. These fish have a longer time to use their very effective escape tactics such as head shaking and running at the boat. Bluefish are experts at that last dash toward the boat swimming faster than you can reel while shaking their heads back and forth. Number two is those big spoons swinging to and fro. This compounds the situation by ripping a large hole in their mouth. The third problem is usually slack line. The bluefish are too big to drag, consequently every one takes the boat out of gear while reeling in. I am not a fish dragger, but find some middle ground which I do not find to be unsportsmanlike. I use my stern controls to kick the boat in and out of gear if I find the fish moving in faster than my customer can reel. All I'm doing is picking up that dangerous slack. I have also gone to the use of drails instead of all that wire as it puts the odds a little more on my side and makes it easier on my fisherman. Try fishing 200 feet of wire with an 8 oz. or 10 oz. drail as this gives you approximately the same depth wth 100 feet less wire. If possible, leave someone at the wheel to move the boat ahead, if necessary. I assume you are using swinging treble hooks attached to the big hook on your spoons as without them you greatly increase your loss factor!

Surf Side with John Fritz

The Light Part I

No name stirs the blood of the local surf fishing clan than a place on the extreme eastern end of Long Island's South Fork called Montauk. Each of us has our own favorite spot closer to home, where we can get in a few hours fishing with a fair chance of success. Montauk Point, however, with it's pounding surf on those accursed rocks is the Mecca of the shore-bound fisherman.

If a striped bass addict could create a place that would attract this gamefish while at the same time offer such varied topography, it would have to be a carbon copy of the Point. From the calm sandy beaches at Gin Beach to the boulder strewn Point itself and then west to the sandy beaches starting again at Ditch Plains, are places with names that set the adrenalin flowing in anyone who seeks the king of the surf, THE STRIPED BASS.

Shagwong, North Bar, Jone's Reef, Turtle Cove, The Fort, Caswell's, etc., etc. Each of these points, rips and rock studded coves require a certain knowledge and expertise if success is to be the outcome of your endeavor. Naturally, there are occasions when the gamefish lose all sense of caution in their wild pursuit of bait but Montauk like all other places must be worked correctly if your success ratio is to be impressive. If you are not fortunate to have a knowledgeable fisherman take you to Montauk and show you how the game is played, much time will have to be spent watching, listening and experimenting. This is where the L.I.F. can be of value in giving you the basics for fishing the Point or for that matter any local area.

It is not too often that surf fishermen are willing to relate their hard won information to strangers. In the past months issues of The Fisherman, two good articles on Montauk were to be found; Vito's "Shagwong" and Fred's "Split Rock"

For instance. Everyone knows that North Bar is fished on the ebb tide but what part of the rip is fished at what stage? At what angle is the cast made in relation to the rip? Naturally, if there is a line-up your choice is made for you as to position and direction of cast. It is on those infrequent times when you find yourself alone that a knowledge of the area is needed. Especially so if you know the crowd will soon be following.

Although stated many times before conditions can change from day to day. Changes in wind direction, offshore storms or heavy rains are a few of the factors that could either hinder or help the fishing scene. So with any article pertaining to surf fishing, especially since they are written months before, can only cover basics. Time must be spent on the beach in order to bring yourself up to date on the latest activity.

When passing through the town of Montauk on your way to the Point a stop at Kronuch's Tackle Shop is a good bet. Johnny Jr. following in his father's footsteps, is a surf fisherman who spends many hours plying the surf in search of bass. Besides receiving many first-hand reports from the surf clan he has eyewitness information on what's happening and where.

The most often fished area of Montauk is located at the base of the Lighthouse. Drive as far east as you are able and you can't miss it. The reasons for the Light's popularity are varied but the one of prime concern is that fish are caught here with some regularity. Those of you without buggies need not fear as it is a short walk from the State operated parking field to the fishing grounds.

Since this place is easily accessible to the Tourists, as we who don't reside on the East End are called, crowding is a definite problem. It is not unusual for fishermen to station themselves on favorite rocks hours before the tide is right to insure having a productive place to fish when the crowds arrive later on. This was more true in the past, before the rocks were filled in and the construction of rock filled wire baskets formed easily traversed walks around the major portion of the base of the lighthouse. Since the improved (?) conditions I have even had to stop casting, during daylight, while a busload of real tourists were escorted along this platform by a guide.

As with most bass fishing better results are generally achieved at night, so that problem is one you should not have to contend with. The people surrounding you will be fishermen, experienced and inexperienced. This is where problems can occur. In order to make the trip more pleasant, certain unwritten rules should be adhered to by all. This is a dangerous place to fish. Aside from the fact that courtesy should be exercised when fishing anywhere, the matter of safety is of utmost importance in this particular spot because of the crowding.

To begin with, casting side-arm is out. A bottle plug whistling past your ear in the darkness is enough to make anyone nervous. If the intent is to make yourself some casting room it could very well backfire with you vacating your spot—the not-so-proud owner of a bloody nose.

Your back cast is a matter of concern for two reasons. The first of which is the pedestrian traffic behind you. You are right, they should give way to anyone starting a cast but not all people think like you and I, so a quick glance to the rear can save a lot of grief.

The other reason for watching your back swing is the wire, either the fence itself or the wire baskets holding the rocks in place. Latch on to either of these and several things can happen, none of which is pleasant. I'll let your imagination fill in the rest.

While still on the subject of the cast it is important that everyone be casting in the same pattern otherwise you can tangle numerous lines. At the cost of plugs now-a-days you will not endear yourself with your neighbors if you cause him to lose his.

If the current is incoming or running from right to left as you face the water, cast towards a point to your right front, say at between one and two o'clock if twelve is straight out. As you work your plug it will swing across in front of you and eventually come in on your left. If the current is running out just do the opposite. In any case, as you arrive at your rock for the night take a minute to watch those around you. If you find yourself all alone (Ha Ha) check those boulders out in the darkness in front of you for some guy in a wet suit.

As mentioned before courtesy should be granted when fishing in a crowd but only when the same is granted to you. What I'm getting at is this. The Light is a tough place to fish. You have strong currents, sweeping surf, pounding waves, slippery rocks on which to stand, a boulder strewn arena in which to cast and play your fish, plus the overcrowding found in prime fishing locations such as this. Anyone who shows his lack of consideration by attempting to fish under these conditions with light tackle deserves whatever comes his way. Light tackle is fine but not here unless you find that you are all alone which is a rarity when the fish are around.

TOMCODS & TOADFISH

BY FRED GUARDINEER

THE TOM COD, ALSO CALLED FROSTFISH SPENDS HIS TIME IN SHALLOW WATER AND IS SOMETIMES CAUGHT BY FLOUNDER FISHERMEN AND ON SURF RIGS. NATIVE TO BOTH THE ATLANTC AND PACIFIC. IT IS RELATED TO THE COD AND WHITING.

AVERAGE WEIGHT 1½ LBS. LARGEST ON RECORD 8 LBS; FOOD VALUE, GOOD.

TOMCODS ARE NOT PLENTIFUL ENOUGH TO BE IMPORTANT COMMERCIALLY.

THE TOADFISH IS A FEARLESS 10-INCH MONSTER WHO NESTS IN OLD TIN CANS AND OTHER SHALLOW BOTTOM LITTER. ENGULFS EVERY BAIT THAT PASSES BY.

TOADFISH CHARACTERISTICS ARE A HUGE HEAD AND MOUTH, FLESHY TABS ON LOWER LIP: NO SCALES AND A SECURE FUTURE IN THAT HE WILL BE THROWN BACK TO BITE AGAIN.

THE TROUTPERCH IS A 6 IN. LONG FRESHWATER SPECIES NOT RELATED TO TROUT OR PERCH, BUT AN EASY PREY FOR BOTH NAMESAKES IN THE LAKES AND STREAMS OF NORTH AMERICA.

UNSUNG BUT ESSENTIAL IN THE MARINE ECOLOGICAL CHAIN, TROUTPERCH LEAD UNEVENTFUL LIVES AS FOOD FOR OTHER SPECIES OR LIVEBAIT FOR FISHERMEN.

THE BOTTOM LINE

with Scott Simons

Preparing Your Equipment for Winter Storage

Well it's that time of year again...the final days of the fishing season. Within the next month or so the last of the bluefish will have gone, the fall run of striped bass will be in its final days, blackfishing will fade and the only species still being sought by anglers will be flounder until the weather becomes just too much of a negative factor and codfish, which will supply all the fishing action until the start of the 1977 fishing season in March when the spring flounder begin to move again. Hopefully the 1977 fishing season will be much better than this year's. With the exception of the fluke and possibly the blackfish and seabass, all other species made a dismal showing for both inshore and offshore fishermen.

Many anglers have already made their last fishing trip until the new season begins next March, although many have yet to realize it. You may still be planning to make one or more ventures for striped bass, blackfish or flounder in the near future. But at this time of year, a large percentage of planned trips are cancelled as a result of the weather, so you never know when that last trip will actually be. Don't make the mistake of throwing your fishing tackle into a corner and forgetting about it until the spring. Now is the time to give it a good cleaning and get it into shape for next year.

The most important items of fishing equipment to be taken care of now and not neglected are your reels—both spinning and conventional. If you were smart and saved the box that the reel came in when purchased, you have half of the battle licked. Included in every box you'll find a special tool for disassembling the reel, lubrication and most importantly a manual. The manual is important because it contains a schematic and instructions that make disassembly of the reel a snap, and contains the necessary information for ordering replacement parts. It will also tell you where to apply lubrication, look for worn parts, etc. If you can't find the manual that came with the reel, shoot off a letter to the manufacturer and request their "Manual and Parts Booklet" for the reel, making sure that you give the model number of the reel. The addresses for some of the major manufacturers are:

PENN FISHING TACKLE CO.
3028 W. Hunting Park Ave.
Philadelphia, Pa. 19132

GARCIA CORPORATION
Alfred Avenue
Teaneck, N.J.

DAIWA CORPORATION
14011 S. Normandie Avenue
Gardena, Calif. 90247

SHAKESPEARE
241 E. Kalamazoo Avenue
Kalamazoo, Mich. 49001

OLYMPIC REELS
P.O. Box 2864
So. San Francisco, Cal. 94080

After you have a manual in hand, the first thing you want to do is clean the reel thoroughly and look for worn and broken parts in the process. If replacement parts are needed, order them NOW—don't just assemble the reel back together and throw it into the closet with a "wait 'til spring to fix it" attitude. Many anglers that ait until spring to order parts will find that the factory is backlogged with orders from anglers who also waited, and as a result they may have their favorite fishing reel "inoperable" for several weeks at the start of the fishing season because you are waiting for a 20 cent part to arrive. So order the part now and get it over with.

If you disassemble the reel and run into a major problem of one sort or another and feel that outside help is needed, you can do one of two things: take the reel to a local tackle shop that makes reel parts or send the reel back to the manufacturer. As when ordering parts, don't wait until next March to bring your reel to a tackle shop and expect to have it repaired on the spot. Look for a tackle shop that is either an authorized service dealer for the manufacturer (listed in the manual) or one that has a good reputation for repairing them. Most of the manufacturers will repair their products at the factory if local service isn't available. Penn Reels is one that offers this service. Send your Penn reel to their Factory Repair Department, Parcel Post insured or via United Parcel Service. Attach a letter to the outside of the package stating what repairs you feel are needed. The reel will be serviced, and all worn or broken parts will be replaced at a nominal cost. When the repairs have been completed, you will be notified of the cost and can either remit the amount or request the return of your reel and pay C.O.D. via Parcel Post. Check with other manufacturers to find out what factory services they provide.

To clean your reels you will need a toothbrush, Q-Tips and some old rags. You'll also need a cleaning solvent, which can be either a mixture of ⅔ kerosene and ⅓ light libricating oil or luke-warm water with a mild detergent like Ivory Snow. A light oil and grease will also be necessary for lubricating the parts when the cleaned reel is re-assembled. A small tube of lubricating oil usually comes included in the box of a newly purchased reel. If you can't find it or have run out, pick up a tube of Penn Reel Lubricant for about 25 cents, available at most tackle shops. Most reels also require a small amount of grease for lubrication. The grease should have three properties to be used on fishing reels: it should be able to stand the effects of temperature changes, pressure and saltwater without breaking down.

The reel should be removed from the rod before the cleaning operation starts. Oxidation on the rod's reel seat and the stem-seat of the reel can weaken the stem or freeze the reel onto the rod. After cleaning, the rods and reels should be stored separately anyway, and the reels are easier to clean when removed from the rod. The reel is then disassembled and thoroughly cleaned in the following manner.

Remove all of the old grease, salt and sand deposits by dipping the individual parts into the kerosene or soapy water and then scrubbing with the toothbrush. A Q-Tip can be used to get at those hard-to-reach corners. Then rinse the part in luke warm water, pat-dry with a rag and lay it on an osborbant paper

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towel. Clean the individual parts as they are removed from the reel and lay them out in the same order so that you will know the order to reassemble them in. This is particularly important in the case of the mulitple washers that are used in the drag system of many spinning reels. All grime should be removed from the washers so that they have a perfectly smooth surface so that the drag is smooth when reassembled.

Before reassembling the reel, check closely for worn or broken parts. Inspect all gears and ball bearings for wear, and make certain that any springs are connected properly. Now is the time to fill out an order sheet for replacement parts and sent it to the manufacturer to be filled as soon as possible. You'll find that the vast majority of spare parts only cost between twenty and fifty cents, so it is often a good idea to order two of each part - if a part shows wear or breaks, chances are it will again.

On spinning reels, check the knob on the handle to make sure it revolves easily. If the handle periodically hits the bail as you crank it, chances are the handle has been bent slightly and it should be replaced. Check the roller on the bail or manual pick-up and make sure it revolves easily and isn't frozen. Remove all line from the spool and thoroughly clean it, including the gears and spring many models have on the underside of the spool Check the edges of the spool for nicks, grooving or pitting that may be abrasive on monofilament line.

Just before reassembling the reel, lightly oil all the reel parts and exterior housing. Be sure to put a drop of oil at eah point as instructed in the manual for the reel. Remember- a drop of oil in the right spot is worth more than two drops just alongside it. You can also spray the parts with silicone, but be sure to wipe off the excess silicone or oil with a clean rag. Reassemble the reel by putting back the parts in the reverse order they were taken off, particularly drag washers. On spinning reels, be sure to repack the gear housing with grease, but don't overdue it-too much grease cxan create excessive pressure build up in the housing when the gears are turning.

Before storing for the winter months, back off on the drag mechanism so that it is very loose. If left tight, the washers will be pressed together under pressure and may become frozen during the months of storage. Wrap the cleaned reel in an oil cloth to prevent moisture from accumulating, then put it in its original box or other container. Store the reel in a heated part of the house, not in a cold garage or damp basement.

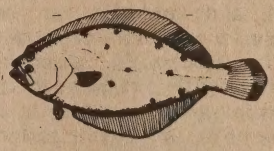
Much of the end of year aggravation can be eliminated by practicing better maintenance during the actual fishing season. Do you wash down your reel at the end of every fishing trip? You should. Liberally hose down all reels with fresh water to remove all the salt water and particals of sand or fish, then liberally spray all of the moving parts and drag with WD-40. Don't leave your reels stored on a boat where the salt in the air can slowly work to create corrosion. I make it a practice of always purchasing the same reel models so that old, unservicable rels may be cannibalized to repair newer reels that need replacement parts. This also gives me extra spools, handles, etc., to play around with.

Fishing rods can also take a beating during the season and now is the time to get them in shape also. Replace any tip-tops that are corroded, bent or crushed with new ones. Check all of the guides for corrosion, and make sure that they all line up with one another correctly. Check guides to see if they have been bent or crushed by being stepped on. Check all the guide wrappings for fraying or unraveling. They may need a new coat of epoxy or varnish to protect them or it may be necessary to re-wrap the guides entirely, perhaps even respacing them for better rod action. Check the reel seat and make sure their isn't any excess play. Make sure the reel mounts snugly on the reel seat and lines up correctly with the guides. Cork grips may need regluing if loose. Wash the reel seat thoroughly with soap and luke-warm water to remove salt build-up, grime and fish scales. Lightly oil to prevent corrosion.

The manner in which rods are stored is very important because improper storage can damage and even destroy a rod. NEVER store a rod so that a blank has a bend in it. This includes hanging them on horizontal rod racks. Your best bet is to stand them in a corner vertically or hang them from the ceiling by means of a cup hook attached to the tip-top. If a rod is a two-piece and has a ferrule, take the rod apart and thoroughly clean both the male and remale parts. Do no put the rod back together for storage.

This is also a good time to start thinking about altering a rod that needs it or deciding to try your hand at making your own. An excellent book, "Fiberglass Rod Making" by Dale Clemens, is available to subscribers of the isherman for only $8.00, and I highly recommend it for anyone that wants to attempt rolling his own. (See ad on page 33.) Many of the larger tackle shops now stock components for rod building - rod blanks, guides, ferrules, cork rings, reel seats, thread, etc.

Don't let that tackle box become neglected, either. Completely e mpty out the contents and thoroughly wash the box out to remove any salt build ups. Use a Q-Tip to get in the corners of the trays. Your best bet is to work with the box in the bathtub. Make sure that the box has thoroughly dried before putting the contents back in. Throw away rusty hooks or all those items that are just taking up room that seem to collect so easily during the season. Replace rusty or corroded hooks on plugs. Make an inventory and write up a list of items to buy. By purchasing a few items a week, you have a good excuse to visit your local tackle shop to shoot the breeze and it also eliminates a large tackle bill in the spring. After the items have been returned to the clean, DRY box, open up all the trays and spray the contents of the box lightly with WD-40 to prevent corrosion. You'll be all set for the spring and won't have any last-minute nightmares trying to get your fishing tackle in shape.



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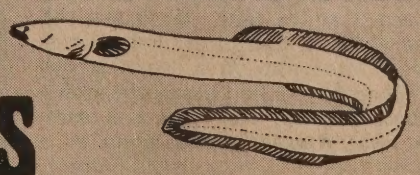

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A Sextant is Not a Deviation

Part One by Scott J. Simons

with special thanks to Jens Jacobs

Suppose, for a moment, that you are an amateur inventor that has just had a brainstorm of an idea for an invention that would revolutionize the boating and fishing world: a device that would enable a fisherman to bring his vessel to within fifteen feet of a hot fishing spot he has located year after year; it is not electronic, so doesn't require any power or wiring; there is no mounting or installation; it is small, stored in a box and can be hand-carried under one arm on or off a boat, to prevent theft or to be used on another vessel; the angler can use the device to find the exact locations of new bottom formations with great fishing potential WHILE HE IS SITTING IN THE COMFORT OF HIS HOME; it is simple to operate and has no complicated mathematics or conversion tables required; and last, but not least, a decent one for use on a small boat would market for about $250...which is relatively cheap when compared to some of the electronic equipment that is several times the price, yet cannot perform the same functions as your new invention with anywhere near the same degree of accuracy. If you were fortunate enough to invent such a device, you'd make your first million. Right?

Wrong! Because it's already been invented. Not yesterday, last week, last month, last year, or even within the last century...the marvelous device known as a SEXTANT was invented in the year 1730. And as remarkable as it may seem, the basic principle and design have remained virtually unchanged since the American inventor Thomas Codfrey raised the first sextant to his eye more than 246 years ago, turned to his colleague and said "third floor, second window from the right."

Just about everyone who has watched a movie about whaling, sailing or others with a nautical theme has seen a sextant being used, although you may not have realized it at the time. You know the scene where the Captain or First Mate of a vessel looks through a device at the stars at night and then announces where the boat is? Well, what he was actually doing was measuring the angle of a celestial body above the visible horizon, which allows him to compute his vessel's position. This method of using a sextant for navigation is still in use by ocean going vessels to this day, 246 years later, despite all of the sophisticated electronic gadgetry that scientists have invented in

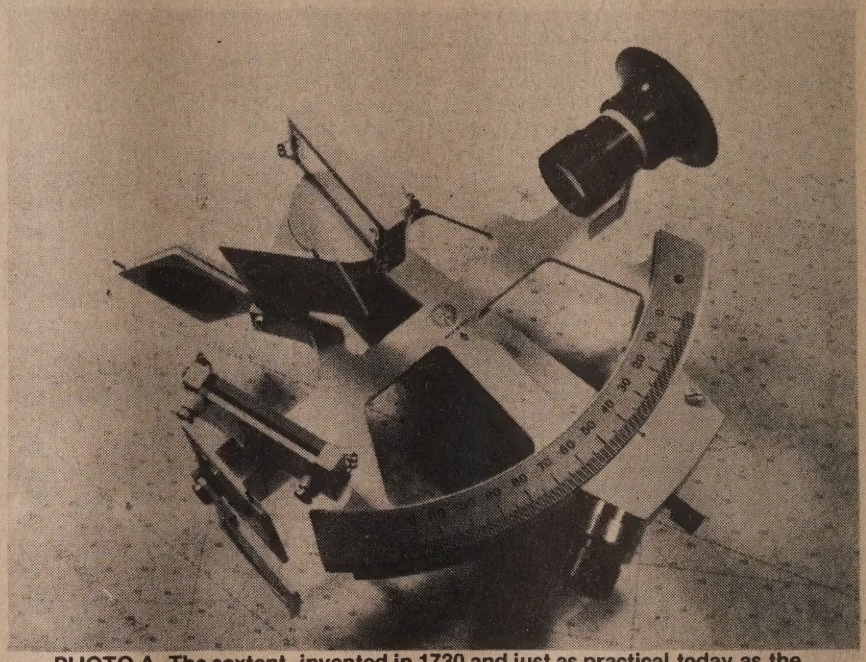

PHOTO A. The sextant, invented in 1730 and just as practical today as the day it was invented.

PHOTO B. Jens Jacobs, of Nautical Services Inc., holds a sextant to his eye to establish the angle of two fixed shore objects on the south side of Montauk.

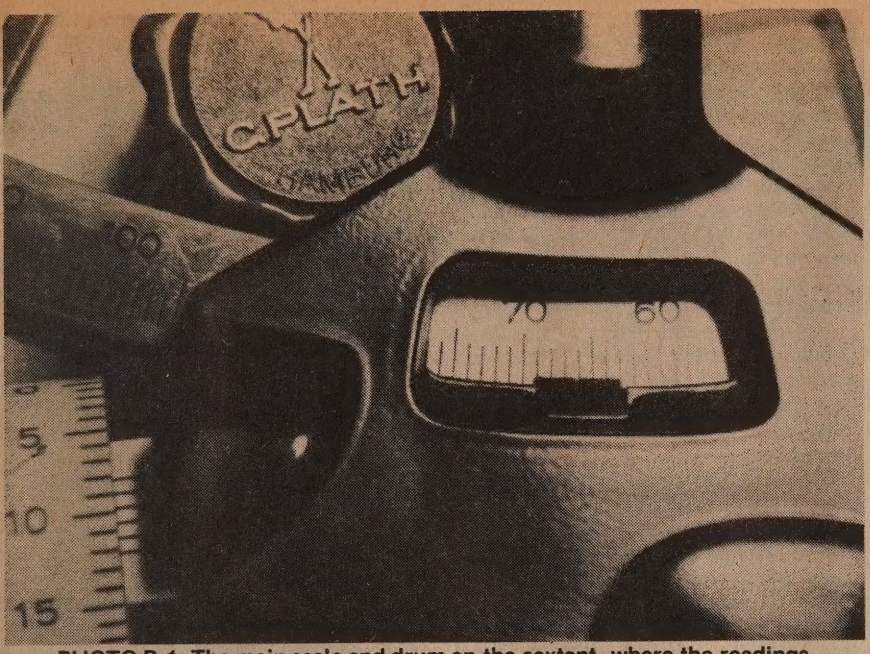

PHOTO B-1. The main scale and drum on the sextant, where the readings are taken from.

the interim. But the sextant's application that we are concerned with here is its ability to allow an angler to locate and relocate a bottom formation for the purpose of catching fish.

I was introduced to this fishing-related potential of the sextant by Jens Jacobs of Nautical Services. Jens is well known on Long Island as an expert compass adjustor, and his business specializes in navigational instruments for the boatman.

Jens dropped by the offices of The Fisherman one day and we had a discussion about how important it was to the fisherman to be capable of relocating a bottom formation. For example: you are out blackfishing in the Long Island Sound one day and while cruising around, your depth recorder marks a small pile of rocks about 20 feet long and 20 feet wide. So you anchor up on the bottom formation and quickly start bailing the finest kind of blackfish. At the end of the day, you say to your fishing buddy, "this is really a great spot, we'll have to come back here again sometime!" And this is when your problems begin. You can take shore ranges, but they have their limitations. Under the best of circumstances (prominent fixed land objects at various depths, unlimited visibility, etc.) it would be very difficult to relocate a bottom formation that small with shore ranges. Electronic equipment like a Loran A or Loran C is quite expensive, is generally only effective in ocean waters, are only accurate from 50 to 200 feet of a fixed object, and are often subject to atmospheric conditions that can render their degree of accuracy worthless for the purposes of the fisherman. Loran sets require installation and power and are usually only found on larger vessels, being impractical to install on fishing boats in the 15 to 22 foot class.

But Jens told me that he did a lot of blackfishing off Northport, and with the aid of a sextant he could consistently relocate boulders no larger than a Volkswagon that large bulldog blackfish like to inhabit. Somewhat skeptical, I asked him for a demonstration, so Jens went out to his car and took a sextant out of the trunk. Standing in the middle of the street and facing the Long Island Railroad tracks, Jens told me how to use the sextant so that I could see for myself how accurate they really are. As shown in Photo A, the sextant is a very simple device. There are two mirrors, one of which is stationary and the other on a moveable arm. By looking through the viewfinder, the angler will see two images, one above the other. Jens gave me the following instructions.

"Okay, point the sextant at that telephone pole. Now look through the viewfinder and get it on the top portion of the split-image. Got it? Okay, now see that tree about 100 feet to the left of the telephone pole? Turn the arm and drum on the sextant until the trunk of the tree is in the lower portion of the split image, just below the telephone pole so that the pole and tree trunk are in a straight line."

After about a minute of fidgeting around, I managed to get the two objects in the viewfinder as instructed, so that they appeared to be in one straight line as shown in Diagram A, figure 1. Then Jens said "Okay, now look at the scale on the sextant and read the numbers off the calibrated scale and drum. (See Photo B-1.) It's 66.8, right? Okay, now take two steps to the right or left. Look through the viewfinder again, and I'll guarantee that you won't be able to get the two objects superimposed as you had them before without changing the numbers on the drum."

Sure enough, when I looked through the viewer again the pole and tree were no longer lined up. Now they appeared as shown in Diagram A, Figure 2. In order to make them appear as they had in diagram 1, I had to turn the knob, which in turn gave me a new reading of 66.9! Jens had just proved that with a sextant you could detect change in location of only five feet, and I was convinced. The sextant we were using that day was a deluxe model costing about $700 and could detect a movement of as little as five feet. But Jens said that a sextant in the $250 to $300 range is accurate to within about fifteen feet, which is more than sufficient for the purposes of the fisherman.

What you are actually doing with the sextant is establishing an angle between two objects. When you change position, the angle between the two objects also

DIAGRAM A, FIGURE 1.

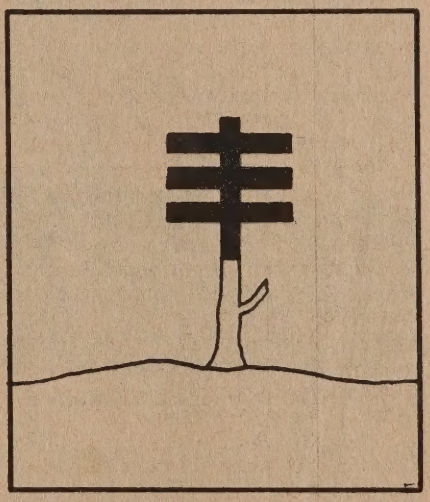

DIAGRAM A, FIGURE 2.

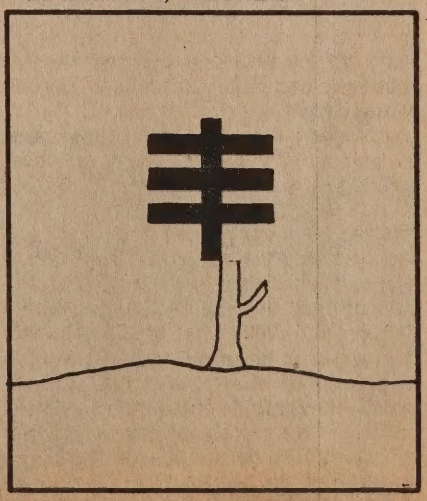

PHOTO C. The Montauk Lighthouse.

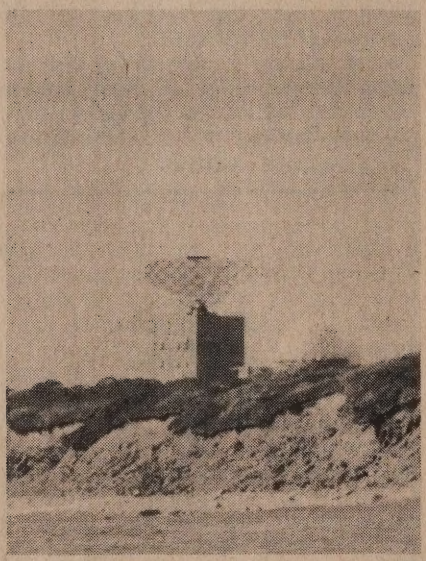

PHOTO D. The Radar Station.

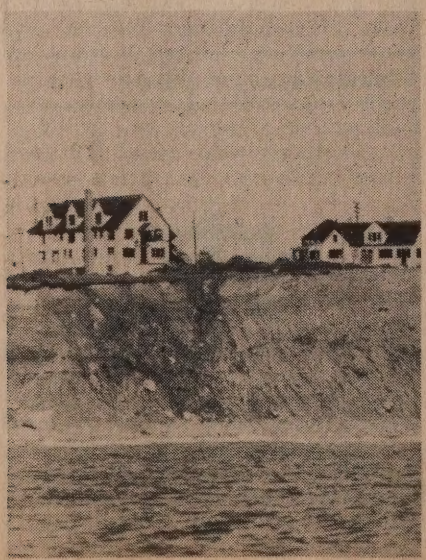

PHOTO E. The telephone pole located between two houses.

changes and this change can be measured with the sextant. Let's see how this function of the sextant can be used by the fisherman in a boat within sight of the shore.

Let's suppose that you are fishing on the south side of Montauk and find a small pile of rocks (or "piece") and start catching quite a few large seabass or porgies. Now a pile of rocks can be expected to stay in one spot for years, so if you can find a way of accurately relocating it you'll have a prime fishing area to visit for years to come. So you take out your sextant to mark the location of the rock pile for future reference.

The first thing you do is pick out prominent FIXED objects on the shoreline. By a FIXED object we mean things that you have a reasonable belief will not disappear or change position in the near future. Objects like: a lighthouse, house, smokestack, water tower, telephone pole, large tree, large boulder, windmill, etc. Obviously, objects such as beach buggies, surfcasters, sand dunes, rabbits and flying seagulls are out because of their tendency to move. Photos C, D and E are three fixed objects on the south shoreline of Montauk: C, the Montauk Lighthouse; D, the Radar Station; and E, a telephone pole located between the two houses. We are going to use these three fixed objects as reference points. With the sextant we will establish the angular relationship of the 3 objects relative to the boat.

The first thing you do is point the sextant at the radar station and get its image on the upper portion of the split image. Then move the arm of the sextant until the lighthouse appears in the lower portion of the split-image. Then turn the drum-knob until the lighthouse appears to be directly under the radar station, as shown in Photo F, which is exactly how the split image would then appear in the viewfinder. Now just take the readings off the main scale and drum on the sextant, write them down, and you have the first angle.

To take the second angle, between the pole and the radar station, simply point the viewfinder at the telephone pole and get it in the upper portion of the split image. Then move the arm of the sextant until the radar station appears as the lower image. Then turn the drum knob until the telephone pole is sitting on top of the corner of the radar station, as shown in Photo G. Take the readings off the scales, write them down and you have the second angle. To relocate the rock pile at some future date, just preset the sextant with the numbers you have written down and maneuver the boat until the three objects line up correctly. As long as the objects exist, you will be able to put your boat within fifteen feet of the rockpile. What more could a fisherman ask?

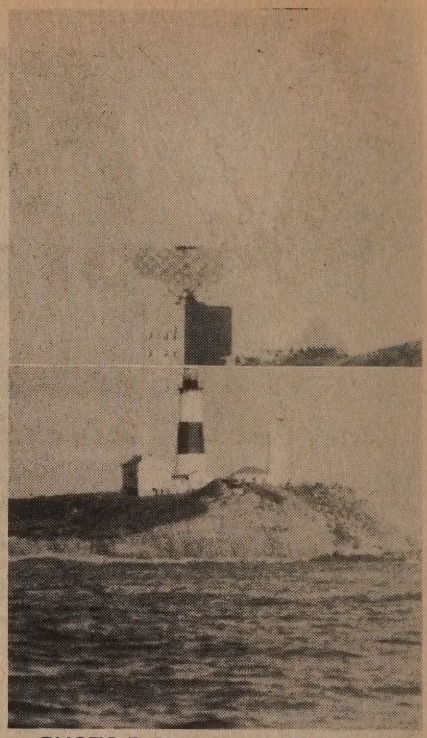

PHOTO F. The way the lighthouse and radar station would appear as a split-image through the viewer.

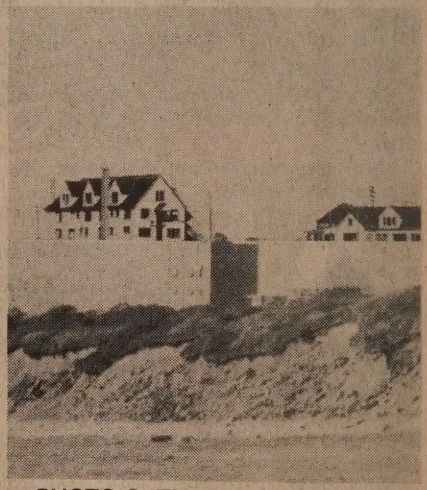

PHOTO G. The way the telephone pole and the radar station would appear as a split-image through the viewer.

Next week we will go into a second application of a sextant that can be an invaluable aid to the fisherman. Plotting the EXACT location of bottom formations with fish-catching potential while you are sitting in the comfort of your home.

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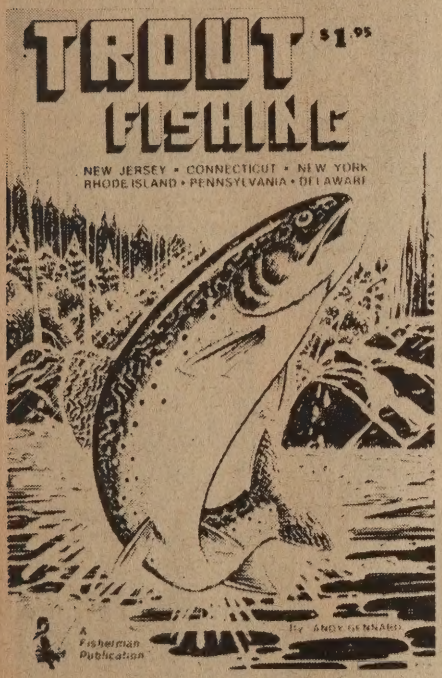
At last! Books on local fish written by local fishermen for local fishermen! The books below are the first three in a series of 20+ being published by The Fisherman for our readers. Order today!



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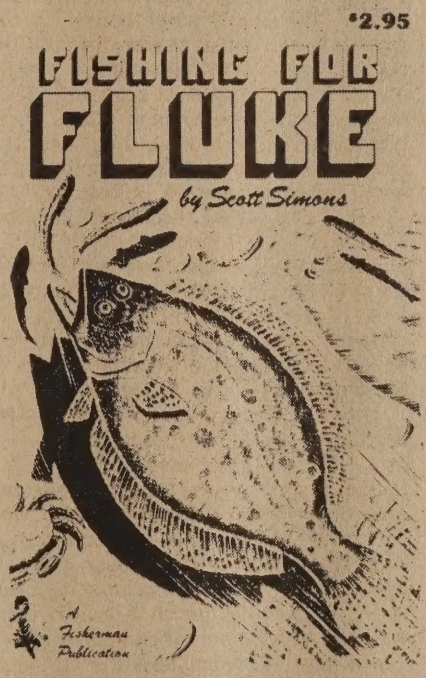

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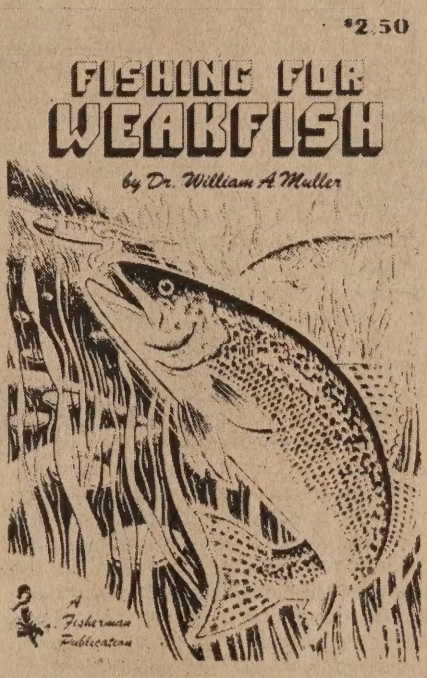

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Montauk, Wire Line & Hurricanes

by Dr. William A. Muller

I know that this seems like a most unlikely combination, and of course it is. But those of you who have read a few of my articles realize by now that I have extraordinary luck with the weather when I plan a fishing trip.

Well, we had a trip scheduled for the October full moon at Montauk, and guess what! At 5 A.M. the weather bureau warned that a hurricane was due to pass east of Long Island and would produce winds to 60 mph. OK, I called up the guys and climbed back into the sack.

The trip was rescheduled for the November full moon. The weather was holding beautifully too, right through October and into early November. When a northeast storm barreled in two days before the trip we were undaunted and convinced that by the time Monday rolled around the weather would then straighten out.

At 3:30 A.M. Frank and his father, Wally, and I were on our say. Stop!

Weather report: Temperature 28 degrees; winds; NW 25 mph plus gusts; sky; overcast with snow flurries.

When the car skidded on an iced puddle as we turned into the parking area I heard several, "Oh no!"

Thank goodness that the tide was incoming when we pushed out of the inlet or we wouldn't have had a chance. The spray from the bow was freezing on the mast and frankly things didn't look too encouraging. In the darkness we lowered two long fat black tubes into the briny on a hundred feet of 30 pound wire at Shagwong. For about an hour there was total silence. The crew, the reels, the birds overhead, all had nothing to say. Only the relentless wind scolded us, tearing through the cockpit after it slammed against the bow, changed direction and was hustled along the sides by the next gust.

Suddenly, Frank's rod bent heavily under the strain of a good fish. He took it from the holder and thrust it into his groin. The fish made a good first run, but then Frank was able to move the fish steadily if not rapidly. Within minutes the fish was along side and a gaff went flying into that 28 pound beauty. Within 10 minutes Wally had one too. The two fish were like peas in a pod.

The sun was up now so we moved to the point and exchanged the long tubes for bucktails and umbrellas. We had to be careful of the length of wire that we trailed behind the boat. The bottom was irregular and we constantly changed from 200 feet to 100 feet of wire. The fish were laying in the deep grooves between the elevated submarine structures. We were into blues and small bass almost immediately. The umbrella rigs captured two or three at a clip and the box was filling up rapidly. The blues were real slammers, many in the teens pushing twenty, but the abundance of eager small bass made it tough to concentrate on the blues. We tried trolling faster but the make-up of the catch stayed about the same. Apparently, the fish were strung out along the beach as well, because there were dozens of casters in a continuous band from North Bar to the Light, and from time to time a big surf stick would take a healthy bend.

The small increasing number of bass was becoming annoying so we decided to head back to Shagwong and try the umbrellas in long trolls that would take us over the reef and along the edge of

Frank and Wally beam over "two peas in a pod."

the deep water. We never had a chance to test our plans because mingled in the distant cloud puffs loomed another cloud of terns and gulls.

"Birds—look at those birds—they're packed in like sardines," the mate shouted.

What's more the fish under the birds were hungry. The short six inch tubes of the umbrellas were picked up even as we dropped them back. With our reels in free spool we couldn't avoid a few bleeding thumbs as the normal slow steady back-drop turned into a streaking tightrope. The fish were a little more respectable too, with mostly bass in the teens and a few blues in the ten pound class.

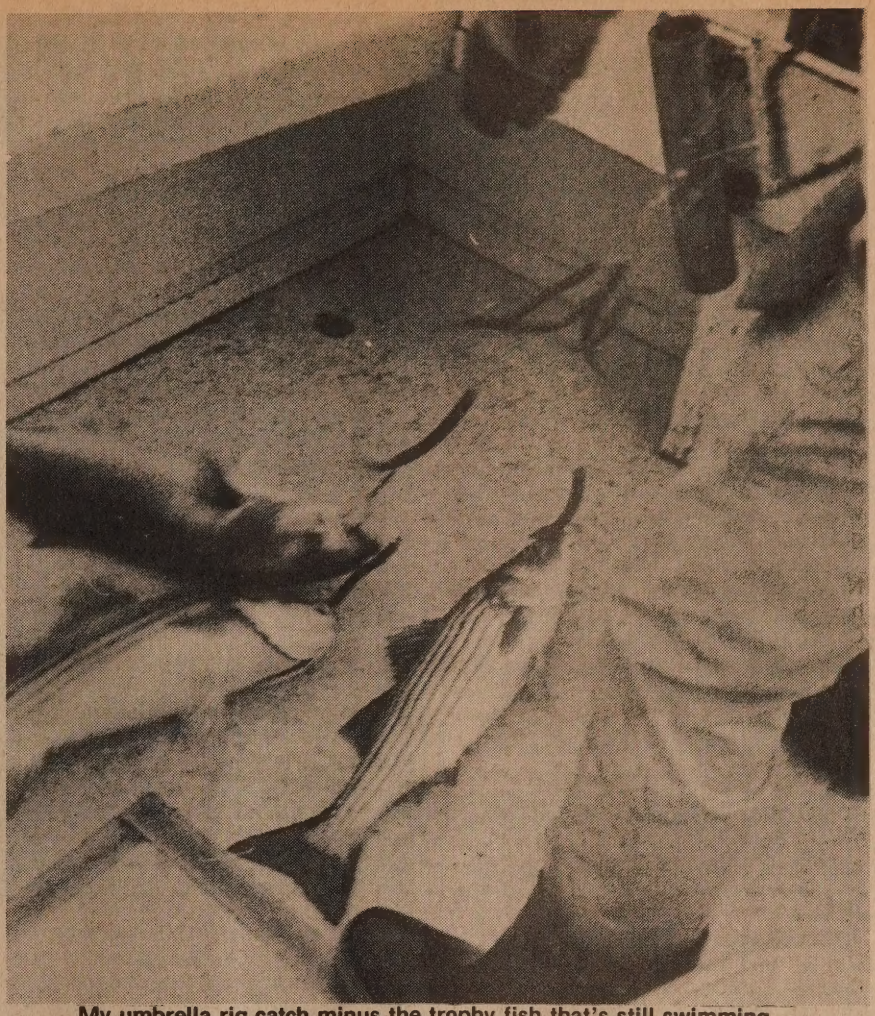
About 15 minutes after we arrived on the scene which incidentally we had all to ourselves, I had an experience that I'm not about to forget too soon. It proves that when these powerful gamefish are on a feed that size becomes only of token importance. Shortly after the wire was out and the umbrella tubes began their typical erratic undulations my arms were almost pulled out of their sockets. Two hundred or so feet behind the boat I saw a huge bass come roaring out of the water. Dangling from its great striped sides were three other fish—two bass and a blue. The fish that hung from that carnivorous mouth looked like fleas on a dog compared to the bulk of this magnificent beast. We watched in disbelief as the great fish jumped again. I tried to desperately keep the line tight. As the fish hit the water after its second jump, some of the great weight was gone. In the boat those fleas turned out to be bass of 7 and 12 and a blue of eight pounds.

Somehow I'm not too upset that a great animal of those dimensions and possessing such incredible power should escape to swim and grow and thrill someone else someday.

Wire line trolling at Montauk in the fall produces consistently for a combination of reasons. First, the skippers of established charter boats as well as private captains know the underwater topography of these waters well. They have learned their trade the hard way. When a client steps on board one of these boats, he or she does not see the trials and tribulations of frustrating fishless trips. Each skipper has paid his dues and each continues to up-date his knowledge so that eager clients become arm-weary on most occasions from bailing bass and blues.

The second factor is the wire line used by most successful trollers. Monofilament line tends to cause trolled lures to rise toward the surface as more and more line is spooled off the reel. Wire line, however, causes the lure to sink approximately 10 feet for every 100 feet of line that is released. Of course faster

(Continued on page 20.)

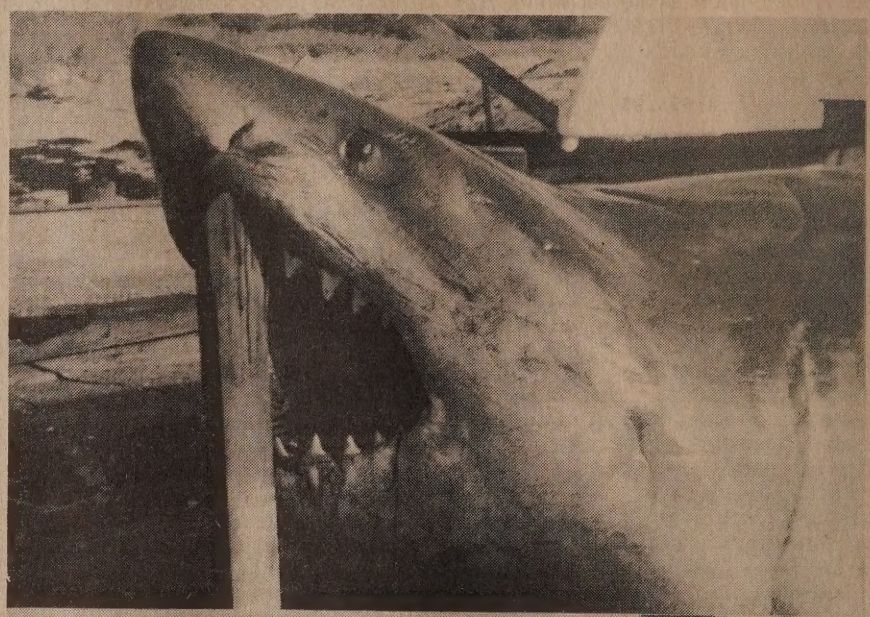


My umbrella rig catch minus the trophy fish that's still swimming.

Frank leans into a good bass that's leaning into him on the other end of a hundred feet of wire line.

BIG WHITEY

by Capt. Monell of "Easy Rider"



Big white sharks always command the respect of experienced seafaring people. Whalers and commercial fishermen are particularly careful if there are white sharks around when they have their catches alongside, as feeding sharks can get into a frenzy and are not too fussy about what they bite and tear into. All this flashed through my mind as soon as we were close enough to definitely identify the owner of the largefin we are overtaking.

It was mid-August 1974 when one morning Hilda Lindley, a neighbor and long time good family friend, joined me for an offshore fishing trip on board the "Surf Scooter." This craft is a wooden 26 foot Lapstrake, single screw sea skiff rigged as a sportfisherman, including a seven foot harpoon pulpit and the usual navigation and electronic equipment. She is a bit on the small and slow side for offshore fishing but able enough if one picks his weather and keeps an eye peeled for signs of a build-up of winds and seas.

We shoved off from John Keller's dock at the Lake Montauk Marina, passed through the jetties, headed east, and a half hour later rounded Montauk Point and headed south.

After an hour's run at ten knots we slowed to eight knots and trolled feather lures astern on the flat lines and skipped eels from the outriggers in hopes of raising a marlin or hooking a school tuna. The seas were calm, the sky overcast, and a few patches of fog reduced visibility to no more than one or two miles. The fishing was disappointing. We were unable to locate any schools of tuna or raise a billfish of any kind. The only excitement occurred when one of the stern flat lines pulled out of its clip and the rod doubled over as the reel screeched to let us know we had a fish on. In over a half century of fishing these waters I'm still not so jaded that I don't get a kick out of a hook-up. The fish turned out to be a stray small ten pound tuna which Hilda boated after a short fight. We continued trolling until noon with no further luck and then decided to stop the boat, reel in the lines and try chumming for sharks. By this time the weather had closed in and it began to rain intermittently. After the trolling rods had been put away, a chum bucket tied over the side, and two husky shark rods broken out I prepared to rig them with floats using whole herring for bait.

I had intended to have one fifty feet deep and out about a hundred feet from the boat and the other ten feet down and fifteen feet out—plainly visible in the beautifully clear, unpolluted offshore water. Before I had a chance to put the baits overboard a very large and unfamiliar fin appeared three or four hundred yards astern, moving steadily south. To me, one of the greatest attractions of big game fishing is the sudden initiation of action, often after long periods with nothing to alleviate the monotony but the grandeur of the sea and sky.

There was considerable scurrying around as we secured the rods, pulled in the chum bucket, started the engine, broke out a swordfish harpoon and dart attached to a keg with two hundred feet of three-sixteenth inch nylon line. At this point it dawned on me that Hilda was not familiar with the controls, but in a matter

of seconds she was behind the wheel on the flying bridge and had been briefed as to what one did with the throttle and clutch levers in order to go ahead, reverse, speed up and slow down. Quickly we were underway and overtaking the still unidentified fin. By the time I had climbed out on the pulpit and readied the harpoon gear we had approached to within forty or fifty feet. It was a shark and clearly visible and readily identifiable as a great white. As we closed these few remaining feet the moment of truth had arrived! We either discreetly turned aside and let Big Whitey go his way or we attempted to harpoon him.

Realizing from previous experiences with smaller sharks that to stand a chance of their not biting through the harpoon line it is necessary to strike them well aft of the dorsal fin. By then the range had closed to ten or twelve feet. The harpoon was heaved and I shouted to Hilda to turn the boat aside. Before I could scramble off the pulpit onto the foredeck Big Whitey had smacked the surface of the water with his tail and sounded with a mighty splash in a smother of foam and spray. There was barely time to pick up the keg and toss it overboard as the last of the two hundred foot line zipped out of the bushel basket where it had been coiled. The keg disappeared under water but in a few moments reappeared a couple of hundred yards off and moving in a southerly direction. We cautiously followed without trying to close the distance. Finally the harpoon pole worked free and floated to the surface, leaving the dart firmly imbedded in the big shark. We managed to retrieve the pole and continue the chase. After an hour of pursuing the keg without any sign of Big Whitey tiring, I advised Hilda we could not follow the keg indefinitely as we would run out of gas and either we had to break off the chase and return home or we had to try to overtake the keg, gaff it aboard and make the line fast to the bow bitt and see if towing the boat would tire our opponent. I asked Hilda what she would like to do and explained that there was some risk involved. She did not hesitate with her answer and voted to try and land our antagonist.

We proceeded to overtake the keg and after several attempts managed to gaff the keg from the bow and take several turns of the line around the bow bitt. By gradually slowing our engine and finally putting it into neutral we had Big Whitey taking the full strain of towing us at a good clip. Another hour passed with no noticeable weakening of our prey and I began to slip the clutch into reverse for short intervals which slowed the shark and raised him to the surface. By careful use of the engine we were able to stop him entirely and then transferred the line from the bow bitt to a stern cleat. Going ahead slowly we brought Whitey to the surface and then by backing down we got in several yards of line before he sounded. We repeated this procedure many times and each time he surfaced he sould roll and thrash around, throwing spray in all directions. As the distance narrowed between us we could see a huge mouth opening and closing and showing a formidable set of teeth. As soon as he was close enough another harpoon was imbedded and then a third harpoon was placed just forward of the tail. By having this last line take most of the strain we were able to work the shark tail first (which was important) toward the transom, and after a struggle got a heavy one-inch nylon noose around his tail. We quickly rigged a bridle from our stern cleats and started towing our live prize back to Montauk—thirty six miles to the north of us.

We had been fighting this fish for four hours. Six hours later, at ten p.m. we ran out of gas just off the Montauk harbor jetties. We anchored, called the Coast Guard on the radio, managed to turn on an emergency gas tank, started the engine, take up the anchor and get underway just as the Coast Guard arrived. They escorted us to our slip in the Marina. Needless to say, the Coast Guardsmen were impressed with our catch and kept playing their search lights on it.

When we arrived at the dock we got some help shifting the bridle from the boat and securing Big Whitey to a piling. He still squirmed and twisted, indicating the tremendous vitality these fish have. To be on the safe side we tied him to two pilings as we did not want him to get loose in Montauk Harbor where many of us swim and engage in other water activities.

Next morning when all signs of life had disappeared, our prize was lifted up out of the water on a boat hoisting machine for display. He measured sixteen feet and seven inches from the fork of his tail to his nose and just over nine feet of girth. There were no scales in Montauk large enough to weigh our catch, but by comparing the measurements with sharks of similar size and known weights caught in Australia we were able to estimate his weight at two thousand five hundred pounds.

When the ichthyologists from the nearby New York Ocean Science Laboratory opened his stomach they found no nude bathers but did find a partially digested bottle-nosed dolphin which we hoped wasn't Flipper. The sharks teeth were extracted and gold capped and now most everyone at the marina has an unusual souvenir. The following summer the movie "Jaws" broke all box office records. If we had seen the film before sighting the big fin Hilda and I might have turned away. Might have, but I'm glad that we didn't.

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MONTAUK, WIRE & HURRICANES

(Continued from page 17.)

trolling speeds will draw the lure towards the surface and slow speeds will cause the lure to sink deeper.

Wire line is effective because the fish usually feed deep. The turbulent currents that are created by the rugged bottom contours at Montauk represent ideal feeding areas for gamefish. The fish tend to gather at the edges of the rips and most charter captains can be found stemming the tide, dropping back 100 to 300 feet of wire to the edge of the drop-off, and encouraging all-hands to jig vigorously. The rewards to the captain and sore-elbowed crew are full fish boxes.

Last but not least, the grapevine figures prominantly in the scheme of success. Although most private skippers keep certain things to themselves, there is a general spirit of cooperation among them because in a sense they all need each other. Word of the effectiveness of umbrella rigs and parachute jigs passed quickly from skipper to skipper some years ago, and if a significant body of fish is found in receptive moods, it won't be long before the fleet is gathered there.

The favorite lures for Montauk trolling are bucktails, umbrella rigs, and parachute jigs. Bucktails and parachute jigs are especially constructed to hold their form in the strong Montauk tide-rips. They imitate squid and some types of round bodied baitfish. These lures must be jigged to simulate the erratic swimming patterns of bait that is tumbled in turbulent currents.

Umbrella rigs present the illusion of a school of sandeels or anchovies. Multiple hook-ups are common when the fish are feeding wildly because umbrella rigs drag four to six, six inch tubes.

Water conditions change constantly. The strength of the tide varies and is strongest around the full moon and new moon. Storms may stimulate sudden migration surges of baitfish and bass alike, and the chance of seasons causes a gradual shift in water temperatures and fish concentrations. Therefore, the preferred colors of the lures varies day to day, week to week, and month to month. White still remains the best color for bucktails and parachute jigs as well as for large plugs that are trolled at night. Red, black, and amber are most often used on the umbrella rigs but from time to time bright yellow, purple, and white are very effective. Red, amber, and black remain the favored colors for large surgical tubing.

The sizes of the fall catches at Montauk leads me to believe that there is a great underwater convention of gamefish that is held each year. But unlike our Republican and Democratic facsmiles, the participants of the Montauk convention all do agree on at least one thing. Let's eat!

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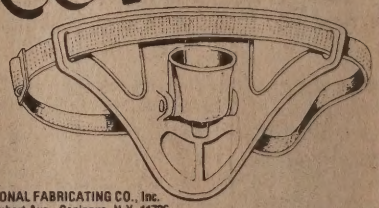
The Long Island FISHERMAN CONTEST

FISHING TRIP

The Long Island Fisherman Litter Box Contest gives our readers a chance of winning a fishing trip for two on the open boat of their choice and a $10 cash prize. All the fisherman has to do is stop in at one of the better bait and tackle centers and pick up an L.I.F. Litter Box for the rear window of your car. Each week the license number of a car spotted with a litter box will be published—if it's yours, call The Fisherman by 5 P.M. that Friday and tell us the make and model of the car and you're a winner! If no call is received, the cash prize will accumulate.



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The person with license plate 383-SZT failed to call in by the deadline, so this week once again there is no winner of the contest. Next week's winner will receive $40 instead of the usual $10 plus a free fishing trip for two.

THIS WEEK'S WINNING LICENSE PLATE NUMBER IS:

655-BIM

Weekly winners of the L.I.F. Litter Box Contest may chose a trip for two aboard one of the following boats as their prize:

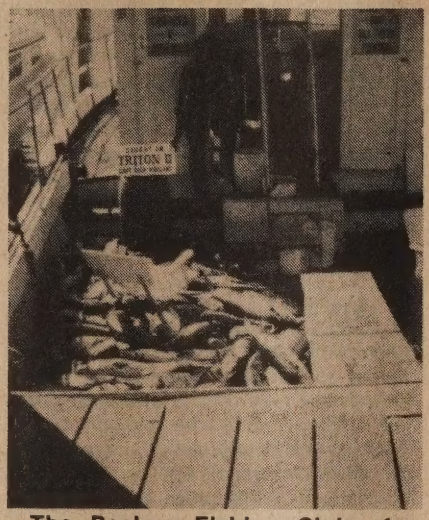
MONTAUK	CAPTREE	SHEEPSHEAD BAY	NORTH SHORE
Viking Star	Speedy VI	Amberjack IV	Port Jeff Ace
Peconic Queen III	Capt. Ben Litwin	Chief	Betty W
Marlin III	Capt. Joseph Fleet	FREEPORT Aloma II	

MONTAUK REPORT

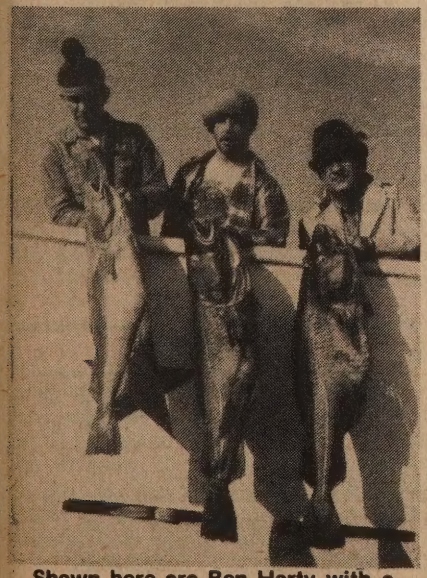
by Scott Simons

The weekend fishing scene at Montauk can only be described in terms usually reserved for disasters. The unrelenting winds starting Wednesday evening and continuing through Saturday left the waters around the Point a coffee-brown, and the inshore trolling suffered tremendously. The strong winds also seem to have pushed cold water into the Cartwright area, as the spiny dogfish moved into the area in great numbers and began competing with the bluefish for herring baits. Fishing is still very good there for the large choppers, but nothing when compared to the blitzes of the last three weeks that came to be expected. Striped bass fishing has been horrendous, but a few good catches taken late Sunday afternoon by trollers at the Pollack Rip on the last of the outgoing tide show there are plenty of fish around and a few days break in the weather should see some good catches coming in. Bluefishing was very good at the Southeast Light off Block Island for those that made the run. Porgies and seabass are just about gone from the Point area, with Block Island the only worthwhile area left for them. Blackfishing is still very good at Outer Shagwong, and many boats have been bailing out the day there. Flounders are still good in the lake.

Ronnie D'Albora of the **Gone Fishing Marina** said that the striped bass being caught are very, very few and far between, although there seems to be plenty of fish in the area. The water is still very murky from all the high winds. Dogfish moved into Cartwright, but good catches of blues still very good at Shagwong but catches were down somewhat on the weekend due to the water clarity and strong tides. Flounder are plentiful in the lake.



The Reelers Fishing Club of Huntington aboard Dick Vilgant's "Triton II" caught 140 blues from 12 to 20 lbs.



Shown here are Ben Harty with a 30 lb. cod, Gary Welge with a 50¾ lb. cod and Carlo Alvarz with a 48 lb. cod all taken aboard the "Peconic Queen III".

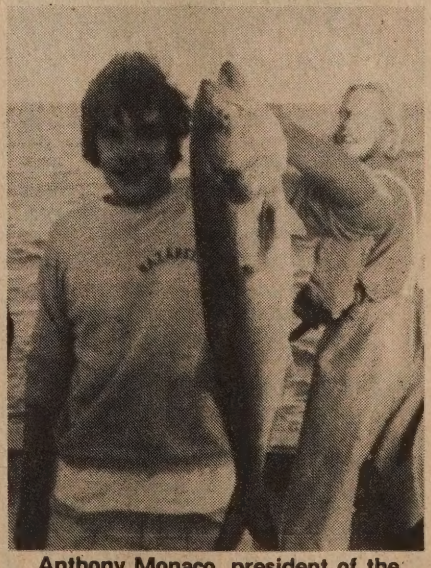
Captain Paul Sundberg of the charterboat **Montauk** was one of the few boats to make a decent catch on Sunday. One an all day charter, 28 bluefish were taken at Outer Cartwright on herring baits and Ava diamond jigs. On the way back, 9 bass were trolled on the last of the incoming in the Pollack Rip.

Freida at the **Cove Marina** reported that the weekend trolling was really down because of the murky water, with the exception of one catch made by one of the marina's boats. Local sharpie Howie trolled 27 striped bass at the Pollack Rip on the last of the outgoing tide using umbrella rigs with white tubes. Freida also said that the bluefishing was still a blitz at Outer Cartwright using herring until Sunday, when dogfish moved into the area. Catches were down but still decent there on Sunday.

Captain Ed Hegner of the charterboat **Web** told me that he found the key to scoring with the bass in the muddy water on Sunday. Using umbrella rigs with green tubes and jigging slightly, eight bass were taken around the change of the tide at the Pollack Rip. Stopping on the way back at Shagwong, the party also loaded up with blackfish on green crabs.

Henry Colombi of the **Star Island Yacht Club** reported that the bass fishing has been very slow and even the local sharpies are having a difficult time of it. Bluefishing was also down at Cartwright over the weekend after the dogfish moved into the area. On Tuesday, the charterboat "'Marie II" scored with a 47 lb. striped bass that Stan Musinski took. Capt. Artie Gerstmann had bass of 26 pounds on Saturday and 25 pounds on Sunday. Artie also put 46 big bluefish and a large weakfish in the box Sunday trolling around the Southeast Light off Block Island. On Sunday the "Entertainer" took 30 bluefish 12 to 16 pounds at Cartwright on herring bait. Burdge Diamond on the "4-of-Diamonds" trolled one bass of 22 pounds in the Pollack Rip and had about 40 bluefish up to 19 pounds on herring at Cartwright.

Captain Bud Dorman of the **Viking Skipper II** said that the porgy and sea bass fishing off Block Island was still excellent until mid-week before the latest big blow. On Tuesday, Ronnie Thoman of the Bronx was high hook with 124 porgies, many in the 2 and three lb. range. Buddy said that starting this Friday, he will be sailing at 5:30 A.M. as an open boat for bass and bluefish using diamond jigs and live bait.



Anthony Monaco, president of the Nazareth Fishing Club of Brooklyn, took this 16 pound blue while trolling off Montauk aboard the Mud Shark.

SOUTH SHORE Fishing Report

3-MILE HARBOR

Bill at **Three Mile Harbor Fishing Station** reported that nice flounder ranging from one to 2¼ pounds are being taken both in the Harbor and the entrance to it on worms or skimmer clams without chum. The outgoing tide has been most productive.

SHINNECOCK

Capt. Clark Bellows Sr reported that the **Captain Clark Boats** have been doing an excellent job on the blackfish every time the winds have layed down a little. On Sunday fishing was particularly good, with fish ranging up to 8 pounds and over 50 fish topping the five pound mark. On Saturday, the action was a little picky in the high winds. Best bet is still the local wrecks in the Peconic Bay, but when the weather is nice the boats will run out to Shinnecock Artificial Fishing Reef for the big seabass and porgies.

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HAMPTON BAYS

Dick at **Bradley's Fishing Station** reported that his boats have been catching flounder good when the weather permits off Greenlawn and the Indian Reservation. Bloodworms and mussel chum are producing fish on both tides. On Saturday one boat took 127 flounder up to 2 pounds.

Fran Muller at **Frank's Fishing Station** said that high winds recently have stirred up the water pretty good and the flounder fishing has only been fair as a result. The fish are there, so a couple of calm days shoud see the fishing really picking up.

MORICHES BAY

Ben at **Tadsen's Fishing Station** said that he got one boat out on Tuesday and it scored with 80 nice flounder off Great Gun Beach. On Saturday one boat had 36 flounder and another had 24 at Great Gun Beach on worms and using mussels for chum. Blueclaw crabs are holding up very good in the area between buoys 27 and 29.

Barbara at **Skidmore's Fishing Station** reported good catches of flounder along the edges of the hole at buoy 43, but mussel chum is essential to a good score. Still a few seabass and porgies in the hole. Barbara said that the water is still a little murky from all the high winds.

Cerullo Bros. Fishing Station reported that the flounder fishing is a little slow with the best action in front of the public dock. Blueclaws still good around buoy 29 and off the brown house.

BAY SHORE

Carl at **Smokey's Bait & Tackle** reports lots of blues offshore on the wrecks and more fish to the East around Cherry Grove and Sailors Haven in 90 feet of water. Also a lot of 2-3 lb. fish on umbrellas with wire using black inverted tubes fishing from the inlet West in 60-70 feet of water. A few small bass for surfcasters along with blues on plugs at the Cedar Beach area. One sharpshooter had 2 stripers in the twenties on redfins fishing the ocean side of Ocean Beach. Blackfishing very good on the Kismet Reef and at the drawbridge in the State Channel on slack water with green crabs and fiddlers. Still a few crabs in the bay. Good flounder fishing on the flats behind Good Sam. Clam bellies in a chum pot is working best. Flounders also from a half to one and a half pounds at the Babylon cut.

WEST SAYVILLE

South Bay Fishing Station reports flounder activity very good on the Hecksher flats and excellent blackfishing at the Kismet Reef with fiddlers and green crab. Vito says fish the slack.

OAKDALE

Howies Fishing Station tells us that good mixed bags of flounder and crabs are being taken off Heckscher on blood worms.

OAK BEACH

Hays at **the store** reports that Danny the mailman fished Democratic Point on Saturday and beached 2 stripers and 4 bluefish on tins at the change of tide. These were all teen fish. Bluefish according to rumors have been hitting the Fire Island beaches on the outside. On Sunday Vince Riggio beached a 16 lb. 8 oz. striper on a bunker chunk tossed into the Democratic Point surf. Flounder is good on both sides of The Store and blackfishing remains good at the Kismet Reef and all rock jetties on fiddlers and green crabs.

CAPTREE

Capt. George Tweedy of the **Captain Scotty** said that the best results with the bluefish has been anchoring up over wrecks. On Tuesday catches were good over the wreck of the San Diego with blues in the 12 to 14 lb. class and a few going 18 to 19 pounds. On Saturday about 6 fish per man was average, blues small in the 3 to 6 lb. class on a wreck near the buoy. On Sunday the fish were larger, about 6 to 10pounds and anglers averaged about 15 fish per man. A few seabass were also taken until the blackfish took over the action.

Captain Neil Delanoy of the charterboat **Lady Ann** called to say that the high winds of late last week seems to have moved cold water into the bay and the blackfishing has just about had it. The water in the bay is also murky, and the blackfishing on Saturday was terrible. The water cleaned up a little on Sunday, but was still cold, so Neil went to the Fire Island Artificial Reef outside and did fair. About 70 blackfish, 200 seabass of mixed sizes and a few porgies were taken.

BABYLON

Augie's Bait & Tackle reports good striper action this Friday, Saturday and Sunday with one surfcaster fishing Gilgo surf and beaching 32, 17, and 15 lb. beasts with stripes. This was Saturday in the late morning and big blues were mixed in on tins and plugs. Sunday saw the Babylon Tuna Club bass contest with fish being brought in weighing 28, 26, 21.3 and 15 pounds from boats working off Gilgo in about 40 feet of water. Some blues are also being chummed at the 85 foot line. Good flounder catches are

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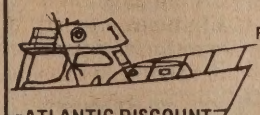

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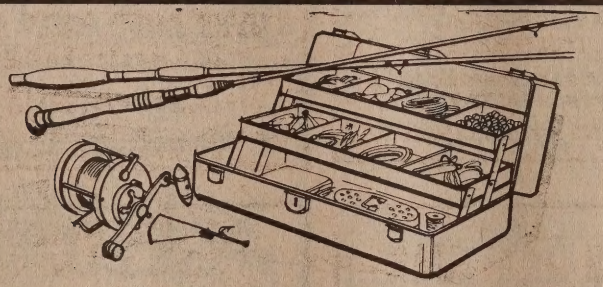

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being taken at Nichols Point and the State Channel around Gilgo, roughly 20-25 fish per boat. Good blackfishing on the inshore reef and Augie's says that they still have fiddlers and green crabs. Lots of dog fish moving in which is a fore runner of cod fish season.

LINDENHURST

Charlie's Bait & Tackle informs us that Patty Beck of Amityville has officially set a new IGFA record, having caught a 12lb. weak on 12 lb. test Ande line. The fish was caught in June, and the certificate just came through. Patty is the wife of sharpshooter Fred Beck. Blackfishing on the Kismet Reef has been good all week and weekend and blues are all over the place on the outside for chummers and trollers and diamond jiggers. Joey G nailed 2 bass over the weekend while his son, Joe, Jr. bagged a 35 pounder. Flounder are spotty but for best results try Oak Beach behind the Sore Thumb and some of the old familiar places named in previous weeks. Crabs are just about finished as are snappers. A lot of dogfish being caught off shore which means that cod fish are on their way.

Capt. Tom on the **Sea Horse** tells us that the best flounder fishing is yet to come for the fall, and once the water cools off some more action should be steady with fat fish. Right now it's better in the deeper holes with either chumming or stirring up the bottom.

MASSAPEQUA

Massapequa Tackle and Sports reports flounder excellent at Four Corners, Squaw Island and the Massapequa Cove on blood worms with chumming a very important factor. Porgies, seabass and blowfish are still making up good mixed bags on worm and clam. Lou Kron and Joe Bove on Sunday, fishing for 3 hours bagged 35 flounder from ¾ to one lb. along with 65 blue claw crabs working Four Corners. The crabs were taken in two traps using flounder heads as bait. Blackfish on the wrecks and bridges on fiddlers. Tony Laino and Frenchie of Al Grovers nailed 140 bluefish from 4 to 16 lbs. while trolling 2 miles due South of Jones Inlet with umbrellas and rebels on top. Some bass being taken at Gilgo, Cedar and West End Beaches mainly on swimming plugs and live eels. Yellow is a hot color now for artificials. Bass are being chummed at the 2nd and 3rd Wantagh Bridges with the first two hours of the ebb working best. These are teen size fish. Bill says he now has live eels in his tank and will have these lively squirmers for the rest of the bass season.

SEAFORD

Lon Wanser's Bait & Tackle reports very good flounder fishing in Zach's Bay, at Squaw Island, around the 3rd Wantagh, off Florence Beach and at Four Corners with fish up to 2 lbs. on blood worms and either clam or bunker chum. During the week 40 bass all schoolies were wirelined by one happy angler in Jones Inlet on umbrella rigs.

BELLMORE

Merrick Marine Supplies reports flounder action good all over, try Swift Creek, Jones Inlet, the Meadowbrook bridge areas and Rowboat alley off Nick's Fishing Station.

MERRICK

Jimmy at **Nick's Fishing Station** reports lots of flounder being caught at Merrick Point, two poles off Nick's Texaco sign at the end of his dock, and Rowboat alley at the S turn. Jimmy says these fish are fat. Blackfishing good at the bridges and the Tea Wreck off shore on green crabs. The last Meadowbrook bridge is particularly good. Blueclaw crabs still around, being taken in traps and on flounder rigs. A few kingfish are also coming in. Sharpie George Zipper of Bellmore nailed a 45 lb. 5 oz. striper on Wednesday, fishing a live bunker at the entrance of the short beach Coast Guard Station. Bunker are still around. Ronnie Leper on the **Kim** bagged 2 stripers on Saturday, one in the thirties.

BALDWIN

Arthur Street Fishing Station and Marina reports flounder fishing good in Baldwin Bay and Middle Bay on blood worms. a few stripers have been taken along with blues at the 40 foot line. Ed Reinish trolling tubes took 5 schoolies in Jones Inlet on Saturday.

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N.Y. BIGHT Fishing Report

FREEPORT

The **Starstream II** reports very good black and seabass fishing both Saturday and Sunday fishing local offshore wrecks and pieces. What the area actually needs right now are more anglers to pull in the fish as the fall weather brings schools of many species to life as they are gathering for a big feed just before migrating. Last week in this column we erronously reported that the Star Stream was producing 1 fish per man. This was a typographical error caused by the typesetter in our office being bitten on the back of the neck by our publishers son just when she was setting that part of the report. It should have been one five gallon can per man being filled up with fish.

The **Captain Al** reports the seabass are very thick over the wrecks and rocky pieces and that porgies are very good on some days but a little slower on others. Al reports some dogfish coming in which means cod are not far behind. The seabass are mixed sizes up to 3 lbs. and they are being caught to the tune of 15 to 100 per man. Blackfish are sprinkled in as are a couple of blues per trip. An occasional fluke and ling are also providing good mixed bags. This type of fishing will continue for the next few weeks, and what is needed is some weather of the sunny and mild type to get more men down to catch these fish and fill their freezers. Capt. John on the **Aloma** reports pretty good blackfishing right now at close in areas. There is a good showing of fish and they are running up to 6 lbs., averaging 1½ lbs. The fish are there and those who know had to fish for these sluggers can expect to catch anywhere from 20 to 30 on a days trip.

The **Blue Fin II** called to say that on Sunday the charter for the Hudson Bay Fishing Club of Freeport caught bluefish up to 12 lbs. on smelts and live bergals at Cholera and also caught some nice seabass on the bottom. The pool was taken by Frank Bocchario of Freeport. Dogfish were showing, indicating the cod should be arriving soon. Blues are feeding right now on seabass and porgies offshore and there should be another good two weeks of bluefish locally.

Anthony's Fishing Station informs us that flounders, while not huge, are being caught at High Flats Drain, Swift Creek and Long Creek, anywhere you have a good muddy bottom. This is on blood worms and chumming can't hurt. Blacks at all the bridges on fiddlers and green crabs.

On Sunday morning, Stu Miller nailed a 14 lb. striper while trolling a red tube in Jones Inlet in about 4 feet of water in his 14 foot tin boat.

A five man charter aboard the **Lucky Strike III** took 54 flounder from ½ to 1¼ lbs. on Wednesday fishing the Freeport creeks with sandworms and clam chum.

POINT LOOKOUT

Scotty's Marina reports good flounder fishing at the Coast Guard Station with flatties up to 1 pound being taken on worms. Blacks up to 2 pounds can be taken on fiddlers at the wrecks and at the Meadowbrook Bridge. Bass up to 5 pounds are being taken at the end of the Jones Beach jetty trolling tubes and spoons. Bass are also being taken from the surf at Lido and Malibou Beaches on tubes and spoons.

Ed's Fishing Station reports Max Horowitz bagged 38 school bass fishing the shallow areas adjoining the Point Lookout jetty on umbrellas on Saturday. Blackfish are good at the Meadowbrook

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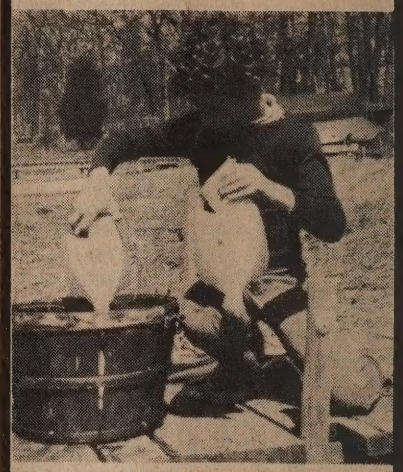
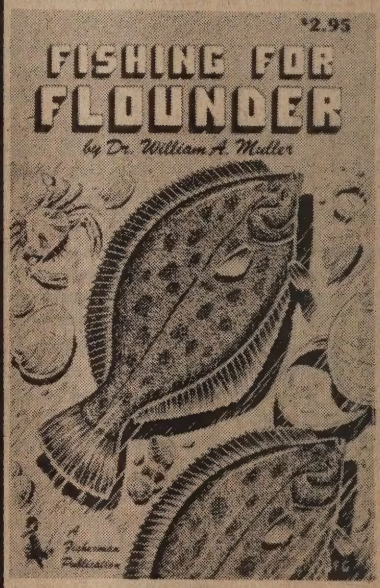


Read FISHING FOR FLOUNDER



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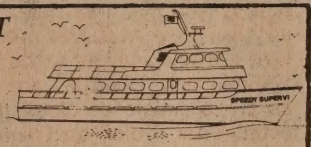

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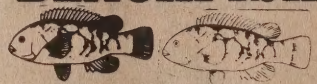
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ISLAND PARK

Beckmann's Tackle reports flounder fishing at Reynolds Channel and Swift Creek is good with fish up to 1 pound being taken on worms and skimmer clams. Blacks up to 6 pounds can be caught under the bridges, at the rock jetties on fiddler and green crabs.

The Commodore reports good flounder fishing with fish up to 2lbs. 3 ozs. with best action at Duck Point and Garrett Lead. The 2lb. 3oz. fish was taken by fare Frank Bonsignore of Long Beach. A good flounder run is on now and the fish are a good size. John says that 40 to 50 fish per small private boat is common. Aboard the Commodore it's about 20 fish per man. Blueclaw crabs are in this area also. The flounder are big sea flounders with yellow fins. Very meaty. Blacks at the Atlantic beach and Long Beach bridges up to 4 lbs. John weighed in a 14lb. bass taken on wire and a bunker spoon on Saturday. A bit late, but we must announce that Lou Stein caught a 2lb. 4oz. flounder in Reynolds Channel last week. Lou is a member of the new Anglers Fishing Club.

LONG BEACH

Long Beach Sports Marina reports good flounder fishing at Duck Point with fish up to 1 pound being taken on worms. Blackfishing at the bridges is good and the Silver Pt. Jetty is producing many blacks on crabs.

JAMAICA BAY

Noehren's Bait and Tackle reports blackfishing is doing very well at the North and South Channel Bridges and the Marine Parkway Bridge on crabs. Flounder fishing is also doing well at the North and So. Channel Bridges in the bay around the railroad bridge, all on worms.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Stella Maris reports excellent bluefishing at Sea Bright diamond jigging and chumming. There is also excellent bluefishing trolling umbrellas off Manhatten Beach or by Verrazano Bridge. The fish are weighing from 10 to 18 pounds. Blackfish up to 4 pounds can be caught at the Marine Parkway Bridge, Breezy Pt. jetty or the Rockaway Jetty on green crabs. Fish up to 8 pounds are being taken at Sea Bright on green crabs. School bass are being taken on clams at the Verrazano Bridge.

Captain Butch of the **New Zephyr** reports that the whole week was very windy but that on Saturday the blackfishing was very good off Shrewsbury Rocks with fish up to 7½lbs. plus a few seabass and some porgies. Cod and whiting will be here shortly, but the next thing that Butch is going for will be ling and whiting. Keep an eye on his ad for the change.

the **Dorothy B** received a new paint job from Monday through Friday but on Saturday made a B line for the Jersey Shore and slaughtered the blacks and seabass, with the pool fish a 10lb. black.

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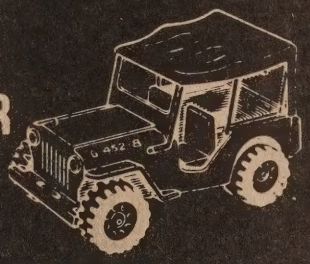

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CAPT. TOM • 212-NI-5-4889

Sunday's pool fish was an 8 lb. black and Sunday was also a leap job with green crab.

Captain Tom on the **Pilot**, needless to say is scoring heavily also on the blackfish, his speciality.

Captain Walter of the **Flamingo II** tells us that he was weathered out Monday through Friday of last week but on Saturday and Sunday took his fares for some of the greatest bluefishing of the year off the Jersey Coast, specifically Sea Bright and the Klondike. Fish ranged from 5 to 15 lbs. and catches averaged 12 to 20 choppers per man. This was done mostly with jigs and and bananas. Walter asked us to be sure to mention that he will be zeroing in on migrating schools of stripers, blues and weakfish for the rest of this month and November and will work on them with jigs and will try and get you the most sport fishing available in these extremely productive fall months, since now is the best time of the year for real sporting action on the bass blues and weaks.

Captain Fred on the **Amberjack IV** left Friday night on one of his cod and pollack wreck trips but very high winds and rough seas limited the results greatly. Fred's last offshore wreck trip for the year is scheduled for this Friday night, and with good weather and favorable sea conditions some good catches should be taken.

The **Big Mohawk II** says that the bluefishing has been good at the Klondike and offshore of the Gas Buoy, while Sea Bright is having great blackfishing along with good sea bass action on green crab and skimmer clam. Tony asked us to announce that he is

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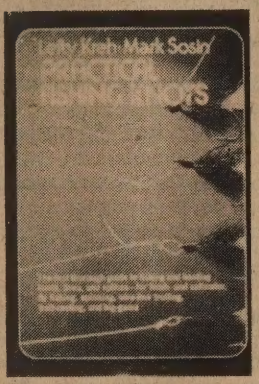

Practical Fishing Knots

by L. Kreh & M. Sosin

A thorough and practical guide to knots, lines and splices for all kinds of fishing in freshwater, saltwater, fly fishing, spin fishing, big game and even boating knots. Tying directions use sleak drawings and photos. A must for every serious angler. 176 pages.

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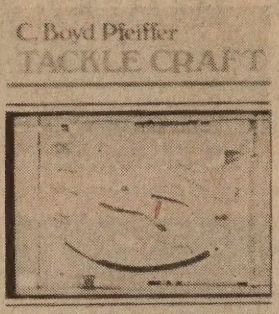

Tackle Craft

by C. Boyd Pfeiffer

A concise handbook on how to make your own tackle and also repair it. Covers lure making, rod racks, rod building, buoys, leaders, spreaders, sinker molds, gaffs, bucktails, tin squids, soft plastic lures and much much more. Complete glossary of manufacturers. 332 pages, illus.

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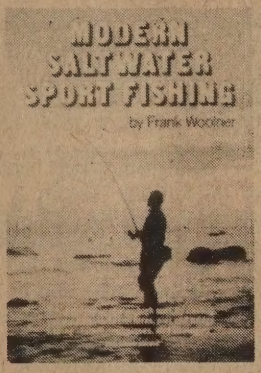

Modern Saltwater Sportfishing

by Frank Woolner

Salt Water Sportsman's famed editor has put it all together in one complete, entertaining and educating volume. From knots and terminal tackle to surf, boating, bay and pier techniques. From flounder and fluke to stripers, snook and tuna, this book has it all. Woolner's easy to read style will make this one of the favorites on your book shelf. 365 pages, illustrated.

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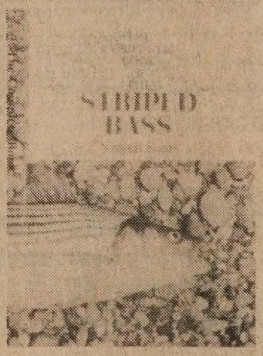

The Complete Book of Striped Bass

by Nicholas Karas

Practical fishing techniques for striped bass from soup to nuts. From the surf, bank, pier, jetty, bridge, boats. By trolling, casting, chumming and bait. Day and night! On conventional, spinning and fly rods. Setting up a bass boat and beach buggy. 365 pages, photos and diagrams.

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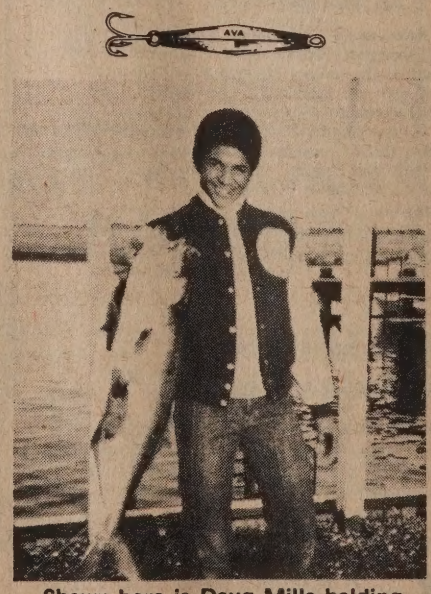
now booking cod and whiting charters at special fall rates. Sea bass are showing a preference for squid. Some early whiting have been located and caught at the BA buoy. Captain Nick of the **Blue Sea III** told us Sunday night that the new boat is now in the shipyard having the finishing touches put on her and she will be ready to sail for the cod season. This 90 foot long by 24 foot wide wood boat features 3 V-12 diesels, full electronics, a full electric galley, heat and air conditioning and a cabin that will seat 50 in comfort. Nick says that the boat will be in the water on Armistice day.

Capt. Huck on the **Helen H** all this past week and weekend has been combining bluefishing with blackfishing with very good results on both. Angler Park Dong Myang of New York City bagged a 9lb. 14 oz. blackfish on a green crab while fishing Sea Bright. It's a slaughter on the bluefish but no people are coming down. The Helen H is going into the shipyard now for a short while to get some sprucing up and maintance work done. Keep an eye on the Sheepshead Bay page for the time that she starts to sail again, which will probably be for cod.

STATEN ISLAND

Santo's Sport Shop reports flounder fishing is good at the Great Kills area on worms up to 1 pound. Blackfish up to 5 pounds are being taken at the rock jetties on fiddlers and worms. Blue claw crabs can still be caught in the harbor. Bass are being taken at the Verrazano Bridge Penny Beach and piers on worms, bucktails and Kastmasters up to 5 pounds.



Shown here is Doug Mills holding his 12 lb. 14 oz. blue. Doug, Walter Kershaw and Scott Kershaw took 27 blues from 4 lbs. aboard the "Sea Bee" out of Freeport.

NORTH SHORE Fishing Report

ORIENT POINT

Orient By The Sea Marina reports good bass and blue activity at the Gut on bucktails. Good flounder fishing in the bay up to 1 pound on worms and excellent blackfishing with crabs on the north side of Plum Island.

GREENPORT

A.P. White Bait Shop reports excellent blackfishing at Plum Gut and Gull Island on green crabs. There is also good blackfishing along the Sound shore from Greenport to Orient and also at the Greenport Jetty. Joe Angevine took 11 bass to 47 pounds on yellow bucktails and pork rind in the Gut.

The **Brand X** did good on Sunday in the Race with blues from 11 to 14 pounds and a 37 lb. bass.

The open boat **Wilhelric II** reports Stan Garboski on Sunday caught a 13½ lb. blackfish which took the pool. Stan and a buddy had over 80 blackfish in the 5 to 10 lb. range. WOW. Another fare had 90 blackfish. The boat returned to the dock at 1PM. Captain Arty Lach says the blackfishing is unreal. Really super great. On Sunday the **Wilhelric I** had the Eastern Anglers Fishing Club on a charter and they did the same big number on the blacks with green crabs. The blackfishing is incredable, said Captain Arty. 2 and 3 pounders are midgets and get thrown back.

SOUTHOLD

Port of Egypt Fishing Station reports that on Sunday there were 17 boats out of the Orient Pt. Station and all did well on black, flounder, and sea bass. In general the fishing has been good weather permitting. Blackfishing in the bay is good at the Brickyards and the Windmills on crabs. Flounder fishing is still doing well in the bay on worms.

JAMESPORT

Jamesport Bait and Tackle tells us of good blackfishing in the Sound and bay with fish up to 8 pounds being taken on fiddler and green crabs. Flounder are being taken in the bay up to 1 pound on worms. Bass from 6 to 15 pounds are being taken on yellow bucktails.

ROCKY POINT

Rocky Point Fishing Stop reports that the blackfishing has slowed because of

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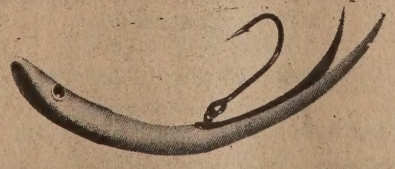

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3. One only has to compare the catches being brought back on both boats to realize why the competition scheduled their trip the same day as ours, but leaving just after the Viking Star does.
4. We are sorry for the inconveniences, but we have no alternative, for we feel it is absolutely necessary to ensure a good and safe trip for our passengers, to:

CHANGE OUR SCHEDULED DATE FROM SUN. NITE, OCT. 31, TO TUE. NITE, NOV.2, 9 P.M. ALL PASSENGERS BOOKED ON THE OCT. 31 TRIP, PLEASE CALL TO CONFIRM RESERVATION ON NOV.2 TRIP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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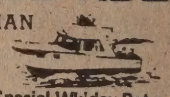

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Brent Whiteman of Huntington took this 36½ lb. bass at Plum Gut on a JD "Fluffy Yellow" bucktail. Photo courtesy of Ronnie's Bait and Tackle.

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RADAR

the weather but fish up to 4 pounds can still be taken at the Shoreham Beaches on crabs. Small bass are being taken at the Shoreham—Wading River powerplant to 9 pounds. Flounder fishing in the Rocky Point area has picked up with fish being taken on worms and clams.

MT. SINAI HARBOR

Ralph's Fishing Station reports blackfish up to 9 pounds being taken in the

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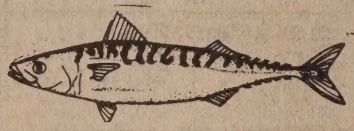

Harold Zarousky and Tom Bowman with 180 lbs of bluefish they caught in Northport Harbor ranging from 12 to 18½ lbs. Photo courtesy of Bowman's Sporting Goods.

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rocky areas on green crabs and fiddlers. Flounder to 1 pound can be taken in the harbor. Blues can be caught diamond jigging at buoy 11 with a few weaks mixed in.

PORT JEFFERSON

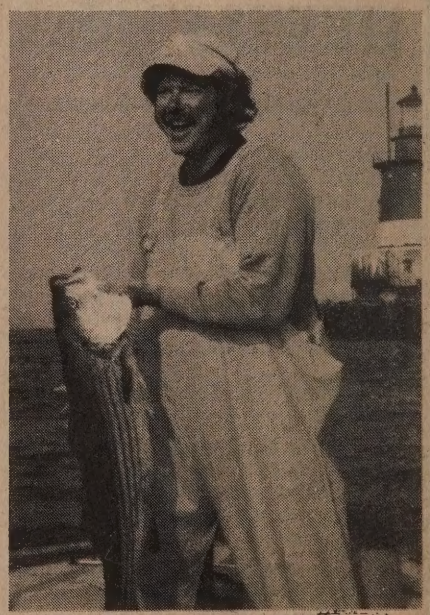
Angler's Den tells us that fishing has slowed because of the wind but blackfish are being taken at Oldfield, Cranes Neck and Mt. Misery up to 9½ pounds on fiddler and green crabs. Flounder fishing is still good in the bay with these flatties being taken on worms.

NORTHPORT

Bowman's Sporting Goods reports good striper activity off the Coast Guard Station with fish up to 12 pounds being taken trolling worms. These fish can also be taken in evenings right off the shore on plugs. Bass are also being taken up to 12 pounds trolling worms at Duck Island. Excellent blackfishing at the Huntington Crescent Club with fish up to 5 pounds being taken on green crabs. Blackfish are also being taken at buoy 11B up to 10 pounds on green crabs. Flounder up to 2½ pounds are being taken at Sands City on sand worms or clams.

HUNTINGTON

Four Winds Bait and Tackle reports good flounder fishing at Lloyd Harbor and Target Rock with fish up to 1½ pounds being taken on worms and clams. Stripers are being taken on Sekora Umbrella Rigs with black or white tubes at Diamond Pt up to 10 pounds. Bass are also being taken



Mike Costanzo of Amityville with his first striper taken trolling at the Romer Shoal Lighthouse. Subscriber Club Photo.

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diamond jigging at buoy 15 off Diamond Pt. Blackfishing has slowed down because of the wind but fish can still be taken at buoy 11B and Marshall Field up to 8 pounds.

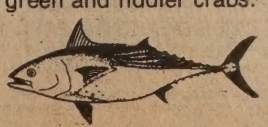
Captain Don of the **Everready Fleet** reports that 80 blackfish were taken by 4 passangers on Sundays trip to 11B and that 2 fish tied for the pool at 8¼ lbs. each. A 9½ pounder was also taken but was not in the pool. Don says anyone going on his Sunday trips should bring along plenty of big hooks and 16 oz. sinkers. The hot spots are about 900 feet south of 11B in 30 feet of water and green crabs are the ticket. Captain Pete Novillino caught a few in the 10 lb. class. The ebb is best. Fishing slows at slack.

PORT WASHINGTON

Moreland's Bait and Tackle reports good flounder fishing in Manhasset Bay with fish up to 1 pound being taken on worms. Blackfish can be taken in the rocky areas up to 7 pounds on green, fiddler crabs and worms. School bass up to 5 pounds are being taken at all points plugging in the morning and evenings or worm trolling.

CITY ISLAND

John's Gun and Tackle reports good blackfishing at Stepping Stone Light, old CBS Tower, Harts Island and Execution Light with fish up to 8 pounds being taken on green and fiddler crabs.



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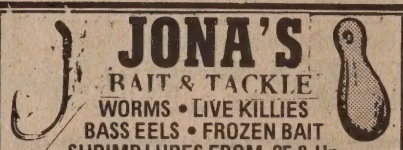
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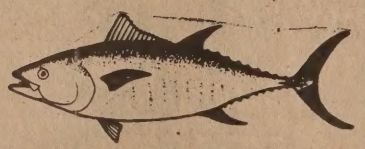

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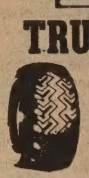

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(Continued from page 4.)

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CONSERVATION COMMENTS

(Continued from page 6.)

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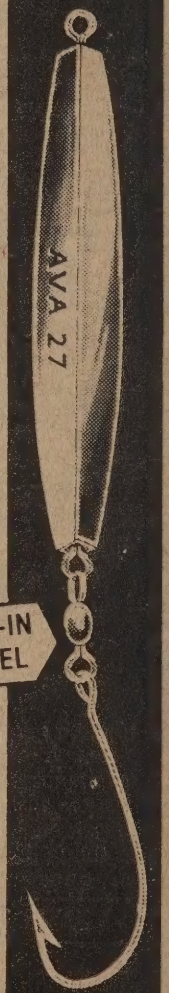

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HIGH TIDE TABLES

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGE-PORT AM	BRIDGE-PORT PM	NEW-PORT AM	NEW-PORT PM	DATE
THUR.	12:19	12:43	1:01	1:32	1:07	1:29	1:56	2:17	4:05	4:23	3:46	4:09	12:10	12:39	10/28
FRI.	1:18	1:43	2:09	2:36	2:07	2:28	3:03	3:23	5:24	5:48	4:47	5:10	1:11	1:39	10/29
SAT.	2:20	2:42	3:19	3:42	3:07	3:26	4:10	4:31	6:37	7:03	5:51	6:15	2:12	2:42	10/30
SUN.	2:20	2:44	3:24	3:47	3:06	3:25	4:16	5:41	6:40	7:07	5:52	6:17	2:15	2:40	10/31
MON.	3:21	3:43	4:24	4:42	4:03	4:23	5:17	5:40	7:38	8:05	6:51	7:15	3:12	3:36	11/1
TUE.	4:17	4:35	5:18	5:35	4:57	5:16	6:06	6:30	8:29	8:53	7:43	8:08	4:03	4:26	11/2
WED.	5:06	5:24	6:01	6:18	5:47	6:04	6:49	7:12	9:12	9:39	8:31	8:55	4:52	5:11	11/3
THUR.	5:48	6:06	6:42	7:00	6:30	6:48	7:26	7:50	9:53	10:20	9:14	9:38	5:35	5:53	11/4

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES:

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet.....—0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6 ½ hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+ 0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	— 0 01
Red Bank, Navesink R.I.	+ 0 48
Long Branch	— 0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	— 0 18
Shark River Basin	+ 0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	— 0 12
Seaside Park	— 0 33
Mantoloking Bridge	+ 5 34
TOMS RIVER	+ 4 37
Waretown	+ 2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	— 0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+ 2 33
Beach Haven	+ 1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	— 0 01
Seven Islands	+ 0 12
Graveling Point	+ 1 05
Mullica River	+ 1 55
Grassy Bay	+ 1 08
ABSECON INLET	+ 0 14
Atlantic City Pier	— 0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+ 0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+ 0 46
CORSON INLET	+ 0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+ 0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+ 0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+ 0 45
Cape May Harbor	— 0 02
Rehoboth Beach	— 0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+ 0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	— 0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+ 1 25
East Quogue	+ 2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+ 1 18
Indian Reservation	+ 3 05
MORICHES INLET	— 0 56
Smith's Point	+ 3 28
Harts Cove	+ 1 30
Potunck Point	+ 3 35
Mastic Beach	+ 3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	— 0 38
Democrat Point	— 0 38
Coast Guard Station	— 0 19
Fire Island Light	+ 0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+ 3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+ 3 20
Bay Shore	+ 2 23
Babylon	+ 2 12
Amityville	+ 2 21
JONES INLET	— 0 19
Zachs Bay	+ 1 25
Seaford Harbor	+ 2 05
Freeport Creek	+ 0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	— 0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+ 0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	— 0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+ 0 38
JFK Airport	+ 0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+ 0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+ 0 08
Bayville Bridge	+ 0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+ 0 03
Northport Bay	+ 0 03
Norwalk Islands	+ 0 10
Smithtown Bay	— 0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+ 0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+ 0 03
New Haven Harbor	+ 0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	— 0 08
Herod Point	— 0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+ 0 19
Horton Point	— 0 20
Truman Beach	— 0 42
Falkner Island	— 0 13
Sachem Head	— 0 10
Branford Harbor	— 0 07
New Haven Harbor	— 0 08
Milford Harbor	— 0 07
Stratford	+ 0 27
Shelton	+ 1 36
Black Rock Harbor	— 0 03
Saugatuck River	— 0 01
South Norwalk	+ 0 10
Greens Ledge	— 0 01
Stamford	+ 0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+ 0 06
Greenwich	+ 0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+ 0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+ 0 12
Greenport	+ 1 04
Southold	+ 1 43
New Suffolk	+ 2 26
South Jamesport	+ 2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+ 2 33
Noyack Bay	+ 2 05
Sag Harbor	+ 0 59
Gardiners Bay	+ 0 21
Promised Land	— 0 14
Montauk Inlet	— 0 25
Montauk Point	— 1 13
Niantic	+ 1 20
Stonington	— 0 33
Noank, Mystic River	— 0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	— 0 01
Norwich	+ 0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+ 1 10
Lyme	+ 1 24
Essex	+ 1 38
East Haddam	+ 2 41
Higganum Creek	+ 2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	— 0 12
Execution Light	— 0 06
Manhasset Bay	— 0 01
Hempstead Harbor	— 0 11
City Island	— 0 03
Rye Beach	— 0 28
Port Chester	— 0 09
Mamaroneck	— 0 08
New Rochelle	— 0 24
Davids Island	— 0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	— 0 10
Miami Beach	+ 1 17
East Point	+ 0 53
Egg Island Point	+ 0 33
Cape Henlopen	— 0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+ 0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+ 0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+ 0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+ 0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+ 0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+ 0 58
Ossining	+ 1 53
Peekskill	+ 2 24
West Point	+ 3 16
Newburg	+ 3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	— 0 10
Tiverton	+ 0 21
Beavertail Point	— 0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+ 0 10
Bristol	+ 0 10
Warren	+ 0 21
Nayatt Point	+ 0 12
Pawtucket	+ 0 21
East Greenwich	+ 0 16
Wickford	+ 0 12
Narragansett Pier	— 0 08
Point Judith Harbor	— 0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+ 0 05
Old Harbor	— 0 14
Watch Hill Point	+ 0 44

SUNRISE/SUNSET

11/6	6:39	4:48
11/11	6:45	4:43
11/16	6:51	4:38
11/21	6:58	4:34
11/26	7:03	4:31

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
11/21	11/28	11/ 6	11/14

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM Minor	AM Major	PM Minor	PM Major
THURS.	10:05	**4:25**	10:35	**4:50**
FRI.	11:05	**5:20**	11:30	**5:50**
SAT.	—	**6:10**	12:05	**6:35**
SUN.	11:50	**5:55**	—	**6:15**
MON.	12:05	**6:35**	12:30	**6:55**
TUES.	12:45	**7:15**	1:10	**7:45**
WED.	1:25	**7:55**	2:00	**8:15**
THURS.	2:05	**8:35**	2:30	**8:55**

Last Election

OTIS G. PIKE

said he was working on the

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